

STILETTOS - THE HEIGHT OF FASHION AGAIN

PAGE 12

CUT-PRICE PENGUINS



THE CURSE ON ENGLAND'S CAPTAINS

Simon Barnes on the loneliest jobs
PAGE 42

PLUS THE RACE FOR THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Simon Wilde on the contenders
PAGE 40

Only my sons keep me in Britain, says 'victimised' Princess

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS
IN an extraordinary interview with a French newspaper, Diana, Princess of Wales, has lashed out at the British press, condemning the former Conservative Government as "hopeless" and declared that she would have left Britain years ago but for her children.

humanitarian campaigner with the common touch, victimised by the press and reviled by those at the top of British society.

kindness, they take me as I am, without judgment, without lying in wait for slip-ups.

La princesse au grand cœur
From yesterday's *Le Monde*

great work. Its predecessor was really hopeless.

"Over the years, I have had to learn to ride over the criticism. The irony is that this has been useful to me by giving me a strength I never thought I had. Which is not to say that it has not hurt me. But it has given me the strength to continue on the road I have chosen."

why I annoy certain circles. Because I am much closer to people at the bottom than at the top, the latter do not forgive me. Because I have a real relationship with the most humble people.

Diary, page 17

Immigration right for gay partners

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is poised to give hundreds of foreign nationals in homosexual relationships with British citizens the right to settle in the UK following a Home Office review of immigration laws.

some embarrassment to the Labour Government. Jack Straw the Home Secretary, has committed himself to fair and effective immigration controls.

"It is said there have been indications given by the Government to the applicant's solicitors that a policy change is under active consideration and there are apparently instructions in place that appeals in this matter should not be heard."



F.W. de Klerk, the leader of South Africa's National Party, announcing his departure from politics in Cape Town yesterday. Report, page 10. Man they couldn't forgive, page 16

France may tax workers for doing too much

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French Government is proposing to cut the working week by four hours to 35 hours by July 1, 2000, according to a Labour Ministry document leaked yesterday.

the "Robien law", introduced by the previous conservative Government, which aimed to protect jobs by offering relief on payroll charges to employers who cut working hours.

Fishy secret

A 40-year-old bachelor, thought to be Britain's most prolific shoplifter, was sentenced to 12 months' probation. It was disclosed in court that his haul included 194 cans of fish.

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16 per packet limit to cut paracetamol suicides

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

NEW controls on the sale of paracetamol, Britain's most popular painkiller, have been ordered by the Government in an attempt to cut the number of attempted suicides and accidental overdoses involving the drug.

problem but which has been included to ensure that people do not turn to it as an alternative. Aspirin overdoses account for 5,000 hospital admissions each year and kill about 60 people a year.

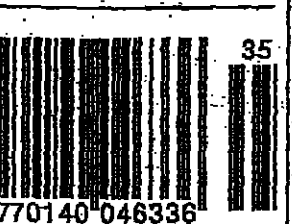
ous suicide attempts of young people who are fed up with mother or father or their girlfriend or boyfriend," he said.

British teacher in Bahamas murdered

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN AND STEPHEN FARRELL

A BRITISH teacher has been murdered on the Bahamian island of Eleuthera, where she emigrated six years ago to educate children at the local primary school.

said that she suffered a severe wound to the forehead, believed to be from a blunt instrument.



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Harvest crisis for apple growers

Bad weather has halved the crop and threatens bankruptcy for some producers, reports Michael Hornsby

ENGLISH apple growers said yesterday that they were facing the worst harvest in more than 60 years and gave warning that many small producers could go out of business. Output of traditional English apples, such as Cox and Bramley, is expected to be half that of a normal year because of severe frosts in April and May, which devastated trees in blossom, and midsummer hailstorms which knocked fruit to the ground.

The English Cox Campaign, which promotes England's most famous apple, said the crop outlook was the worst since 1934, the last time that orchards were hit by such severe frosts, and would leave many growers with little or no crop to sell or fruit too badly damaged to be acceptable to ships. The price of Cox is expected to rise to 69p a lb, 40 per cent higher than last year.

The next two weeks will be critical for English Cox because we will only know the full extent of the damage once the apples are taken off the trees in mid-September. Adrian Barlow, chairman of the campaign, said. "There are growers who will not be picking any apples this year and their future is very bleak. With others, it will depend on the quality of the apples they harvest and how retailers and consumers react to fruit which, in some instances, is likely to look less than perfect."

A normal annual crop of English apples is about 300,000 tonnes, but this year the harvest is not expected to exceed 150,000. Cox and Bramley apples, which account for the bulk of the crop, are estimated to be down 48 per cent and 51 per cent. Yields of other varieties, including Gala, Spartan, Worcester and Discovery, have also halved. In a good year, home production supplies 40 per cent of consumption.

Dan Neuteboom, who grows 220 acres of apples near Ipswich, said 65 per cent of his crop was made up of Cox's Orange Pippins which had been particularly badly affected. "We are looking at a crop of about 40 to 45 per cent," he said. "It went down to minus 8 degrees in the spring. There is no fruit that can withstand that kind of cold. There are going to be fruit growers who cannot survive."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Husband will deny body in lake charge

The husband of Carol Park, whose body was found at the bottom of Coniston Water in the Lake District 21 years after she disappeared, appeared in court Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, yesterday charged with her murder. Gordon Park, 53, a retired teacher, indicated through his solicitor that he would "strenuously deny" that he killed his first wife. However, he did not apply for bail and was remanded in custody for seven days by magistrates.

Haughey tax inquiry

Charles Haughey's troubles deepened yesterday as the Irish Government found itself under intense pressure to set up a new tribunal to investigate exactly how he maintained such a lavish lifestyle on a relatively meagre state salary. One day after a tribunal condemned the former Taoiseach for accepting and concealing £13 million in gifts, the Revenue Commissioners also hinted strongly that he was under investigation for tax evasion.

Glasgow to host scrolls

Glasgow is to be the only city in Britain to host an exhibition of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest known biblical manuscripts, on only their second visit to Europe from Israel. The exhibition at the city's Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery from May to August next year is expected to draw thousands of visitors. The manuscripts, 800 in all, were found in 11 caves in the Judean desert between 1947 and 1956.

Pensioner dies in chase

A man aged 76 died from a heart attack after chasing a mugger who had made off with £4 from his wife's handbag. Albert Bishop collapsed near his home in Smithwick, West Midlands, after his wife of 56 years was robbed as he escorted her to her weekly bingo session. Kathleen Bishop said her husband ran 20 or 30 yards before collapsing. "He was the sort of person who would try to do something about things," she said.

Fruit cross hatches 'pluot'

A new fruit being marketed as a "dinosaur egg" goes on sale today in an attempt to attract young people to more healthy eating. The fruit, grown in California, is bred by crossing an apricot and a plum and is officially known as a "pluot". The dinosaur description follows the film *Jurassic Park*: the fruit is the size of a small nectarine and has purple speckled skin. Each fruit, available at Tesco stores at 50p, is sold bearing a pink dinosaur sticker.

Brothers killed by car

Two young brothers died after a car hit them near their home in Uxbridge, west London. Zakaria Baker, 10, and his brother Abu, 13, were crossing a dual carriageway on their way to play football. A relative said: "They were inseparable. They were holding hands when they crossed the road." Their parents, Nasimul, 37, a businessman, and Zarina, 34, fled to Britain from Idi Amin's regime in Uganda in the Seventies. They have a daughter aged 7.

Fat saves holidaymaker

A holidaymaker who spent 20 hours in the sea after his boat capsized survived because he was overweight. John Brodie was insulated by his body fat and clothing, said Hassan Mohammed, an intensive care specialist at the Ysbyty Gwynedd Hospital, in North Wales. Mr Brodie, 43, of Rossendale, Lancashire, who has mild hypothermia, is expected to be allowed home soon. There is no trace of his son, Charles, 23, who was also thrown into the water.

Gold rings 'halt arthritis'

Gold wedding rings can slow the progress of rheumatoid arthritis but only in the fingers on which they are worn, hospital doctors in Birmingham and Coventry claim. In a survey of 30 patients wearing rings and 25 not wearing rings, they found that the knuckle joint of the finger with the ring was three times less badly eroded by the disease than the equivalent joint on the right hand. No such difference was detectable in those who did not wear rings.

Knock-out rescue service

A boxing fan who was thrown 25ft after his motorcycle collided with a car thought he had died when he saw Frank Bruno standing over him. Leslie Steel, 34, who has twice seen Bruno fight, realised he was alive when the former world heavyweight champion, who was two cars behind Mr Steel on the A11 at Elvedon, Suffolk, broke into his booming laugh. Mr Steel, who suffered severe bruising, said: "I told him I felt I had done three rounds with him."

Blair tells party to focus on the big picture

By Jill Sherman and Nicholas Watt

TONY BLAIR flew back to Britain last night determined to make his Government focus on "the big picture" after a series of blunders while he has been on holiday. The first sign of his return was a flurry of activity to defuse the compensation row over Montserrat, including an agreed package of aid measures and the announcement that Clare Short's deputy would go out to the island this weekend. George Foulkes, the International Development Minister, will fly to Montserrat on Sunday to reassure islanders in the wake of the volcanic eruptions. The decision followed the meeting of a special task force on the Montserrat crisis which held its first meeting at the Foreign Office yesterday.

THE DOME
The German firm which lost the contract to build the Millennium dome is considering legal action in the European courts. Koch, Hightex, is to submit a compensation claim of more than £2 million after the Government last week scrapped its £6.1 million contract to build a PVC cover. The contract has since been awarded to an American company.

"the excellent co-operation" between Whitehall departments. He rallied to Ms Short's defence by adding: "I and my other Cabinet colleagues fully support the plan put together by my colleague Clare Short to ensure that the people of Montserrat have choices."

The Prime Minister made clear yesterday that he is determined to regain the initiative and concentrate on his priorities — education, health and devolution — rather than be sidetracked by minor issues such as the Millennium Dome and the Montserrat compensation row. He will also be intent on calming party nerves and ironing out internal tensions.

then his party conference speech on September 30. Next Friday he will go up to Scotland to spearhead the campaign for a "yes yes" vote in the devolution referendum, both before and after spending the weekend with the Queen at Balmoral.

In his statement after the meeting Mr Cook said that the group had agreed to assist islanders to decide what government help they need. Islanders can either take financial support to travel to the United Kingdom or to resettle in the Caribbean from a £10.5 million relocation package. There is also a £40 million package to develop the north of the island which has escaped damage from the volcano.

William Hague, the Tory leader, said yesterday: "Let us hope that now Mr Blair is back he will get a grip on his Government. Every new issue has brought fresh bickering between ministers."

Mr Blair has been irritated that Labour's main message has been overshadowed during his absence. A Downing Street spokesman said that Mr Blair believed Labour must deliver its pledges and keep focused on the "big picture". "Some of the issues that have preoccupied the press in the last week or two are far less important than that," he added.

David Brandt, the island's chief minister, who has been a fierce critic of the Government, said that he would welcome a visit by Mr Foulkes even though the minister infuriated islanders last week with an erroneous warning of a "cataclysmic eruption".

This week the Prime Minister will begin work at Chequers on three major speeches: one to a party rally in the North on Saturday, the second to the Trades Union Congress in Brighton and



Flown in from Greece after a long legal battle, Rena tries the grass at the sanctuary

Victory roll starts new life for rescued lioness

A LIONESS rescued from a cruel life in Greece was yesterday walking cautiously on the grass of the Big Cat Sanctuary near Ashford, Kent (writes Kathryn Knight). Vesna Jones, who runs the charity Greek Animal Rescue, said: "She keeps sniffing the grass and rolling around like she cannot believe she is here."

owner bought her illegally from a travelling circus. The lioness limps badly after an apparently bungled attempt to declaw her.

The owner refused to part with her when approached by charity workers from Greek Animal Rescue and the Born Free Foundation. In March this year, after lengthy court battles and wrangles with the Greek Justice department, Miss Jones won a court injunction to confiscate the lion



Dewar: international business not worried

Devolution 'will be good for economy'

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

THE Government's attempt to calm the nerves of leading Scottish industrialists, who fear that the economy will be damaged by a tax-raising Scottish parliament, began in earnest yesterday. The Scottish Secretary told them that devolution would be good for their businesses.

Donald Dewar promised to maintain "a level competitive playing field throughout the UK" in his first major speech in business since Sir Bruce Paterson, the Governor of the Bank of Scotland, said that a tax-raising parliament would harm jobs and investment and leave the average tax payer £200 a year worse off.

devolution." He said that Scottish business would have more control of its own affairs after devolution. "It is not just a question of what impact a devolved parliament will have on the business community but what effect the business community can have on the devolved parliament. The Scottish parliament and executive will have important powers over a range of matters of vital interest to business."

Mr Dewar said foreign investors in Scotland had none of the fears that some Scottish businessmen are exhibiting. The focus of the devolution campaign is now firmly on the possible tax-raising powers of a Scottish parliament and their impact on the Scottish economy.

Scottish business community ahead of the arrival of Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, next week to spearhead the final weeks of the campaign.

"We are committed to maintaining a level competitive playing field for business throughout the UK. But if we can tilt the balance just a little in Scotland's favour, not by any underhand methods but simply by getting our act together, I, for one, would be all in favour of that."

Mr Dewar's speech to 300 delegates at the Scottish Council for Development and Industry in Glasgow yesterday was aimed at reassuring the

level of continued interest in investing in Scotland is strong evidence that international business is not worrying about

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Prep head gives warning over schools crusade

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

A LEVELS

Some editions of *The Times* last Saturday did not carry the A-level league table for state and independent schools. For those readers who missed the guide, *The Times* will publish it in full again on Friday.

THE Government's uncompromising drive for higher standards of education risks descending into "intellectual fascism", a leader of Britain's preparatory schools said yesterday.

Dr Bob Acheson, Head Master of Clifton College Preparatory School, Bristol, told fellow heads that he feared ministers would use their parliamentary majority to push through reforms against advice if their targets were not met. Excessive prescription and overemphasis on examinations could damage the character of education.

In his chairman's address to the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools, Dr Acheson applauded the Government's "crusade" for higher standards. But he said the word conjured up images of "intolerance, of might being right, of myopic single-mindedness".

He told the conference in Harrogate: "Of course it is right for this Government to see the quest for higher educational standards as a battle too important to be lost. But such single-mindedness runs the risk of becoming intellectual fascism and this sits uneasily with a liberal democracy."

Dr Acheson added: "Education, education, education."

may be the starting point. But history shows that such ideals all too often descend into 'regulation, regulation, regulation'. There is a real risk that, buoyed up by a massive parliamentary majority, this idealistic and fresh Government will, as it stumbles upon the uncomfortable and complicated realities of government, stop speaking to the people and start speaking for the people."

The plethora of shock troops such as Numeracy Task Forces, Standards and Effectiveness Units and Standards Task Forces did not guarantee better education, he said. "Concepts such as 'zero tolerance' read well, and doubtless mean well, but they are strong on rhetoric and weak on means of implementation."

Dr Acheson's remarks were

well received at the conference but an Education Department spokesman said: "To deliver higher educational standards a government has to be single-minded but ministers are determined to consult widely. They have certain firm ideas about how to raise standards but they want to know what people in all walks of life, including independent education, think."

Seven regional conferences are to be held next month to canvas views on the Government's schools White Paper. The spokesman said the scale of consultation promised to be the biggest mounted by a government department.

Teachers' leaders in the state system echoed Dr Acheson's fears. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "There is a danger that the drive for higher standards is all about achieving better and better results in the core subjects. While that is of fundamental importance, we must not allow the curriculum to be narrowed unduly."

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said he was concerned by the overemphasis on pass rates.

Letters, page 17



The Captain and the governor: the rare Middle White with Mike Lewis, who says they are probably "the ugliest pig you would ever find"

Pig of a job wins praise for a prison

By RICHARD FORD

THEY call him Captain. He is probably the ugliest customer in North Sea Camp Prison, and the other inmates naturally treat him with a certain respect.

Yesterday the respect reached the top of the prison service, with a report praising the work of the jail's farm where Captain lives. The rare

Middle White boar is among more than 1,000 pigs kept at the open prison near Boston, Lincolnshire. A report by Sir David Ramsbotham, chief inspector of prisons, praised the farm and its work in providing employment for low-risk inmates, although he said that supervision took up a lot of management time.

The jail has 213 inmates, and 58

work on the 1,000-acre farm. Most of the land is used for crops but there are also 900 bacon pigs, 100 breeding sows and 900 sheep. There are also the rare breeds including Middle Whites and Large Blacks; the jail has three Middle White boars and 25 sows, each known by name to the prisoners. The animals are popular with school visits.

Yesterday the governor, Mike

Lewis, said of the Middle Whites: "They are probably the ugliest pig you would ever find. They look as if they have travelled without a crash helmet on the motorway and hit something concrete". The rare breeds are sold to other pig keepers. The bacon used to be sent elsewhere in the prison service but has such high quality that it is now sold on the open market for top prices.

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Bosnia pilot killed on base by drink-driver

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

AN Army helicopter pilot who returned to a hero's welcome from service in Bosnia was knocked down and killed by a car driven by a drunken technician after the celebrations.

Jason Penny, 24, a senior aircraftman, was jailed for three years after pleading guilty at Teesside Crown Court to causing the death of Stephen Dean, 33, by drink-driving. The court heard how Penny drove on after the accident, leaving Warrant Officer Dean in agony in the road outside RAF Dishforth, North Yorkshire. He died in hospital from head injuries.

The impact threw Mr Dean and, five hours after the accident in July 1996, was breath-tested and found to be nearly twice the legal limit.

When he was told he had killed the pilot with whom he worked, Penny claimed he had not seen anyone on the road and thought the damage to his Fiat Tipo had been caused by hitting a bird.

Warrant Officer Dean, who was married with twins aged ten, had just returned to Dishforth after a spell in Bosnia and attended a barbecue celebrating his squadron's return. Philip Creighton, for the prosecution, said Penny was also at the party.

A senior aircraftman at the base, he was responsible for ensuring the reliability of pilots' emergency gear such as life jackets, parachutes and helmets. He told how Mr Dean and two friends left the

party at 1.40am and walked across the base to a clearly marked crossing place which led over the road to a footpath to their homes.

The court heard that Penny, who had drunk at least eight cans of lager, got into his car and drove off the base onto Boroughbridge Road heading to his home in Ripon. Mr Creighton said Penny was driving at about 40mph in the 60mph zone when he hit Mr Dean who had almost crossed the road. It was a straight stretch of road with clear visibility and there were warning signs indicating a pedestrian crossing place.

The impact threw Mr Dean 40 yards but Penny, a bachelor, failed to stop. He was arrested after guardsmen on the camp gate told police he had left the base in a car shortly before the smash. Jeremy Wilson, for the defence, told the court: "Mr Penny accepts he made a significant error. There was no way on earth he should have been driving. He simply didn't realise he had hit another human being."

After the case Warrant Officer Dean's mother, Margaret, from Bromsgrove, told how her son had left school aged 16 determined to become a helicopter pilot. He spent nine years with the Army as an air technician often serving abroad including Ireland and the Gulf before training with the Army Air Corps to achieve his ambition of becoming a pilot.

Alibi for soldiers on trial for assault

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN LARNACA

THREE of the five British soldiers accused of assaulting a group of English tourists outside a nightclub in Cyprus have been provided with alibis by a witness for the prosecution. Their lawyer said yesterday he would move for an early acquittal once the prosecution rested its case.

Private Alan Spearman, appearing for the prosecution, said he was with Tim Carter, 27, and Steven Wolstencroft, 26, when they left the nightclub to go to a hamburger bar across the road. There was a fight about 25 yards away which all three watched.

Private Spearman said he then spotted a third defendant, Steven Girvan, 20, leaving the nightclub and getting into a taxi. He, too, was not involved in the fight, said Private Spearman, 21, of the 9 Signals Regiment. Judge Michaelis Christodolou interrupted proceedings to ask: "Is this man really a witness for the prosecution?"

The case has been adjourned until September 16 because the lawyer for Roger Bell, the fourth accused, will be on holiday.

John Mylonas, the lawyer representing Messrs Carter, Wolstencroft and Girvan, assured them he would be in a position to appeal for their acquittal shortly after the case resumes. All five accused are serving with the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment. The trial of Stuart Spencer will begin on September 30.

Aboriginal head rests a while longer in Liverpool

By LIN JENKINS

ABORIGINAL elders due to arrive from Australia today to reclaim the skull of a warrior ancestor have suffered a legal setback. An injunction was granted yesterday banning them from removing the skull from Britain until the legality of the exhumation has been confirmed by a court.

Corrie Bodney, from Perth, was granted the injunction by an Australian court after claiming that he had to give formal consent for exhumation because he is the closest living relative of the warrior, Yagan.

An 1857 law states that

exhumation within 100 years of burial can be carried out only with the consent of the next of kin. Mr Bodney said that the Australian High Commission did not have his backing when it retrieved the skull from a pauper's grave in a Liverpool cemetery.

Mr Bodney, a Ballaruk tribal elder, said tribal law required him to blindfold Ken Colbung, one of the four-man delegation, with fighting sticks if the head was brought back without his consent.

"It will have to come to violence," he told *The West Australian*. "I have no choice. I'll give him a few, not

one, and then take the head off him."

Yagan was shot by a bounty hunter in Western Australia and his skull presented to the Liverpool Royal Institution in 1834. He was renowned for his clashes with white settlers. British descendants of two men allegedly murdered by him have objected to plans to give the skull a hero's burial. Liverpool City Council, which has kept the skull in a museum conservation department since its exhumation earlier this month, said the exhumation hearing was due on Friday at the Supreme Court in Western Australia.

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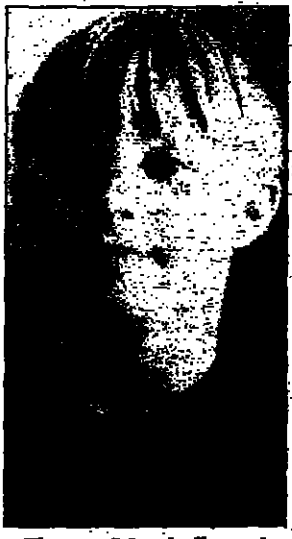
CB radio clue to schoolboy's murder

Detectives investigating Thomas Marshall's death believe that he may have met his killer over the airwaves, Joanna Bale reports

THOMAS MARSHALL, the 12-year-old boy murdered in Norfolk, may have met his killer through CB radio, police said yesterday.

As his parents appealed to the public for information leading to his murderer, detectives disclosed that for the past year he had been using a CB set in his bedroom to talk to local radio enthusiasts.

Superintendent Les Parrett, who is leading the murder inquiry, said Thomas sometimes used the "handle" Jackpot. Thomas was using a CB radio from his home, and clearly would have been speaking to people at various times. There is a possibility that he could have come into contact with his killer.



Thomas Marshall: used radio in his bedroom

through it. We would like CB users to come forward with any information that might help. We would also like to establish a link with someone who regularly uses a CB.

CB radio, once a common fad, remains popular among lorry drivers.

Marin Hamlin, 27, a CB user from North Walsham, near Thomas's home village of Happisburgh, said he heard the boy broadcasting pop music two days before he disappeared on Thursday. He introduced himself as "This is Radio Thomas here playing all the greatest hits in Norfolk". He was laughing and joking and pretending he was a radio DJ. I spoke to him for about 15 minutes around 10pm. At the end he said 'I'd better get down and go to bed or my parents will tell me off'.

"He was a lovely lad and I was so shocked when I found out it was him who had been killed. It is possible that he could have met someone through the CB, but it's an awful thought."

Thomas's parents, John and Carol Marshall, held hands and looked emotionally drained as a police press officer read out a statement on their behalf yesterday. In it they said Thomas, their only child, had been "at the start of a life full of promise" and they did not want another child deprived of his future in such a "brutal way".

The statement, read by Peter Steward, said: "Words cannot express the pain we feel at losing the most pre-



John and Carol Marshall appealing yesterday for the public's help in finding their son's killer before "another child is deprived of his future in such a brutal way"

cious thing we had, our dear son Thomas.

"We would like to appeal for further help from anybody who has any information, however insignificant it may seem. If you have any suspicions or doubts, we beg you to contact the police now so that whoever has done this to our son can be caught before he kills again."

"Thomas was at the start of

a life full of promise. Please do not allow another child to be deprived of his future in such a brutal way."

Before reading the statement, Mr Steward said: "As you can imagine, Mr and Mrs Marshall are absolutely devastated by the death of their son. Norfolk Police are desperate to find the person or persons responsible. In order to help, John and Carol

have agreed to face the media and appeal for information."

Mr Marshall, 50, a Norfolk County Council archivist, and Mrs Marshall, 47, a part-time librarian, reported Thomas missing at 11pm last Thursday after he failed to arrive home from a trip to see a 16-year-old friend at the neighbouring seaside village of Eccles. He never arrived at the friend's house. His bicycle

was found in a field three miles from the village on Friday afternoon and his body discovered two hours later, at a picnic area near Thetford, 50 miles away on the A11 Norwich to London road. He had been strangled.

Police are concentrating their inquiries to see if there may be a link with the apparent suicide of a 22-year-old American airman at a

base at Mildenhall, Suffolk, on Friday night. The base is a few miles from the picnic area where Thomas's body was found. A Norfolk police spokesman said: "This is part of routine inquiries we are making into all suspicious deaths since the murder."

Police say they are likely to stage a reconstruction of Thomas's last known movements on Thursday.

Wood expert casts doubt on dating of masterpiece

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A TIMBER expert yesterday cast fresh doubt on the authenticity of one of the National Gallery's most prized paintings, Rubens's *Samson and Delilah*.

Charles Norman, the executive director of the National Timber Trade Federation, dispensed the gallery's dating of the wooden board to which the painting is glued.

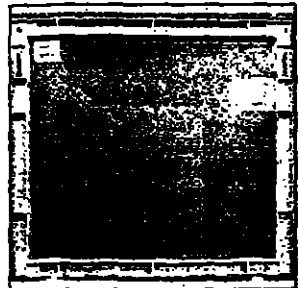
He said that, judging from photographs, the wood was a blockboard manufactured in the late 1970s or early 1980s — around the time that the painting was bought by the gallery for a record £2.5 million. Mr Norman's dating supports a report from four

another piece of evidence against a work which was attributed to Rubens only in 1929. Throughout its 180 years in the Prince of Liechtenstein's collection, it was always said to be a copy of the early 17th century Rubens by a minor pupil, Jan van den Hoocke.

The gallery has insisted that the wood was applied long before it acquired the picture. Last year it agreed to conduct a dendrochronology test to date the oak panels on which the picture was painted. It believes the results support the work's authenticity.

However, if Mr Norman's reading is correct, a more recent dating has crucial implications, explained Michael Daley, director of ArtWatch UK, the group that campaigns for the welfare of works of art. He said: "Once the wood is planed away, any documentary evidence is gone for all time if it's not recorded, either by photographs or written accounts. It seems incredible that this should have been done by any party in the 20th century, partly because such information constitutes the pedigree of a painting and partly because everyone has become so record-conscious."

The auction house from which the gallery purchased the painting has refused to comment on its attribution. Earlier this year, the gallery's director, Neil MacGregor, said the blockboard was applied "almost certainly before the war". His statement refined the gallery's earlier suggestion that it had been done "at some time, probably during the present century", which implied it could even have been done in the last century, even though blockboard had yet to be invented.



The back of the picture

witnesses who saw the painting just before its 1980 sale. They cannot be named for reasons of confidentiality, but each remember that the painting had a wood cradling support common on Old Master paintings, and are adamant that it did not have a blockboard backing.

Mr Norman said: "The blockboard looks like a manufactured item, machine-made rather than hand-made." The size of the panel and the five-ply construction were among clues to a modern dating. Mr Norman's reading is yet



Samson and Delilah: attributed to Rubens in 1929

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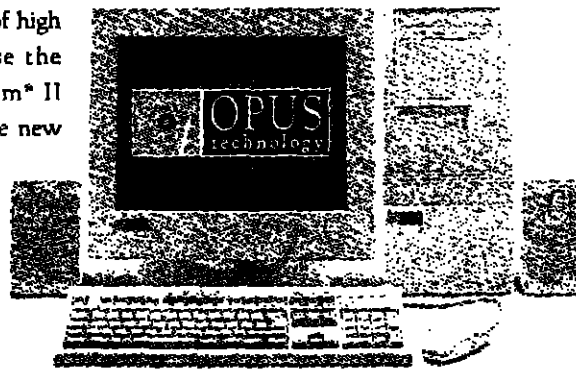


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Mobile phone will make calls from the heart

MOBILE phones that will automatically alert a hospital if their owner's heart rate or blood pressure reaches dangerous levels are being developed by British engineers. The phones will also be able to show where the person is on an electronic map if they become unconscious.

BT is developing a range of devices to help disabled and elderly people become less housebound. Panic buttons that alert the police or a carer are already routinely used to help the frail and disabled to live in their own home, but BT researchers are studying ways of extending the idea.

Don Golding, of BT's laboratories at Martlesham Heath, Suffolk, said yesterday that phones could be set up to trigger an alarm. For example, if someone was on an errand or on an outing, a central controller could ring at a pre-set time to check they were all right.

An alarm call might be made automatically if the person strayed outside a pre-determined area. The call centre could then alert an ambulance or a member of the family.

Mr Golding said: "The call centre could bring up informa-

Telephone alarm

system could

help to make life

much easier

and safer for

millions, reports

Nick Nuttall

tion about the person such as medical needs or telephone number of their doctor."

The call centre could also be used as an advice point. Mr Golding said that a person in a wheelchair who, for example, got stuck on a woodland trail, could dial the centre which could put them in touch with the nearest taxi firm to come to their aid.

He said other users of the system could be women out at night on their own, or people whose jobs put them in vulnerable situations, such as social workers, bank messengers and security guards.

BT is looking at using the

cell-phone network for the system. Signals from the phone to at least three cellular transmitters would allow the network to pinpoint the phone's location.

The phone could also act as a route planner, advising which sections of a journey could best be done by train, car, taxi or on foot. "If you get lost and find yourself in a dodgy area you could hit the alert button and ask the assistant to send a cab," Stephen Furner, another BT researcher, said.

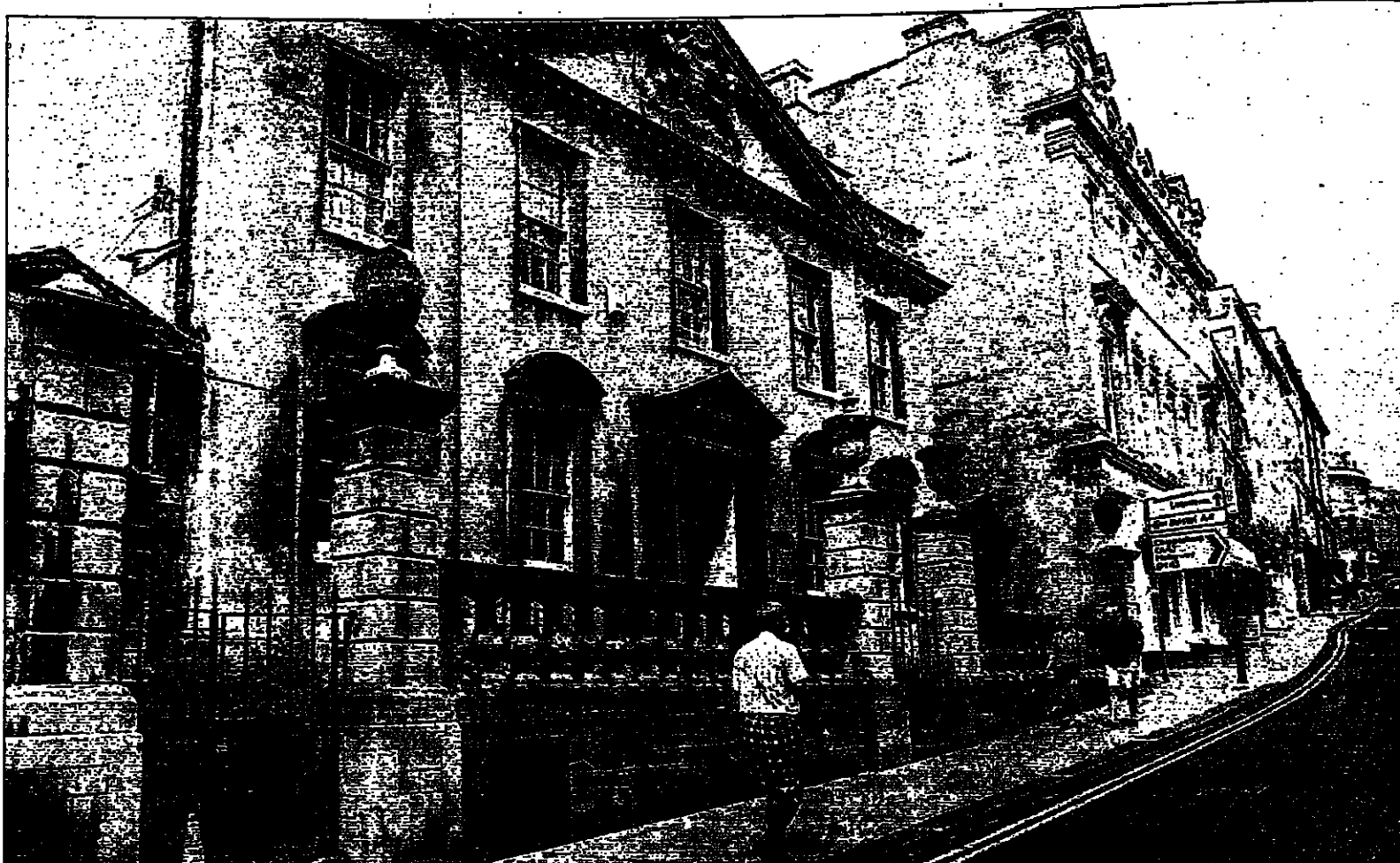
"The mobile phone could also use biological sensors. It could help to do all sorts of health monitoring, such as heart rate and blood pressure."

A wrist-watch might gather the data and the phone transmit it to a health centre to alert staff that the user's condition was deteriorating, and say where they were.

The company said the technology could be available in three years.

Another scheme under development, called Telecare Testbed, will fit elderly people's homes with sensors that will monitor their movements around the house 24 hours a day, and other features, such as the temperature of rooms.

Mel Collins, the BT researcher involved in the project, run in collaboration with the Anchor Housing Trust and the Institute of Human Ageing in Liverpool, said the system would first learn the householder's habits, such as when they rise, get picked up for a wheel drive, and go to bed. Once the pattern has been set any sharp deviations will be picked up by a call centre. If no doors opened and closed during the afternoon, for instance, the service could automatically ring the householder or a carer. It is hoped the system could cut health service costs and improve the quality of life for older people or those with degenerative diseases by delaying the date when they may need to consider hospitalisation or moving to a home.



King Edward's School in Bath, which the Samuel Smith brewery wants to turn into a pub with a capacity for 500. It has not been granted a licence

Roman Bath fights a losing battle to keep superpub hordes from the gates

Plans to convert listed buildings face stiff resistance, report Mark Henderson and Elizabeth Judge

THE Roman spa town of Bath is fighting plans by brewers to open seven "superpubs" for young people in listed buildings in the town centre.

The Bath Society, the Bath Preservation Trust, magistrates and councillors have spoken out against the proposals, which they say would destroy the character of the Georgian town centre.

The developments, which are all within 500 yards of each other, would cater for more than 2,000 drinkers. One superpub, P.J. Peppers, has already opened, and another, All Bar One, is to open in the old Christopher Hotel building. Three others have been granted licences.

The campaigners have already seen off a plan by the Samuel Smith brewery to develop a pub with a capacity of nearly 500 in the disused



Major Crombie said image would be ruined

King Edward's Junior School. Bath Crown Court last week rejected an appeal by the brewery against a magistrates' decision to refuse its application for a licence.

However, Surrey Free Inns has planning permission and a licence for The Litten Tree, which will take over the old Lloyds Bank building, and an O'Neill's Irish pub is to open in the old Cawardine's Café. All three were granted licences on appeal at Bath Crown Court after their initial applications were rejected by magistrates. Planning or licence applications are still pending for the Fortuna and Firkin pub in the former

Royal York Hotel and the Style Bar in the old Post Office. Fullers wants to turn the NatWest Bank building into an Ale and Pie pub.

Protesters say similar developments in nearby Clifton and Worcester have led to increased vandalism and drunkenness. Major Anthony Crombie, vice-chairman of the Bath Society, said: "The cumulative impact of these schemes presents a terrible danger to a World Heritage Site."

"We are going to see 18 to 25-year-olds on 'circuit drinking' sprees and the character, image and standing of the area will be ruined. There will be increased noise, disturbance, vandalism and anti-social behaviour. I do not want youngsters urinating and vomiting in the doorways of Bath."

English Heritage, which has given listed-building permission to most of the schemes, said opponents of the pubs were exaggerating their impact. "Listed buildings are seriously damaged by the blight of disuse, and we need to get them filled," said Chris Smith, its historical adviser for the South West.

He added: "The whole of Bath is a conservation area and we would not accept plans that would damage it, but we are not in the business



Cowardine's Café, above, and the old Lloyds Bank, below, were granted licences on appeal at Crown Court



of pandering to Nimby."

Breweries said the new pubs would bring new life to the town centre and appeal to tourists as well as younger residents. "There is a bad need for new pubs in Bath," said Pat Perrell, commercial director of Surrey Free Inns. Graham Stewart-Reed, of Bass, which operates the All Bar One chain, said the new pubs would make Bath more lively in the evenings. "There

will be a great scene in Bath, a massive circuit with a whole variety of styles."

"Hundreds of 'superpubs', which often form part of a chain, have opened in the past three years as breweries have targeted 18 to 25-year-old drinkers. Bank and hotel buildings are popular locations as they have large, open floor spaces. Breweries like to open the pubs close to others to share customers."

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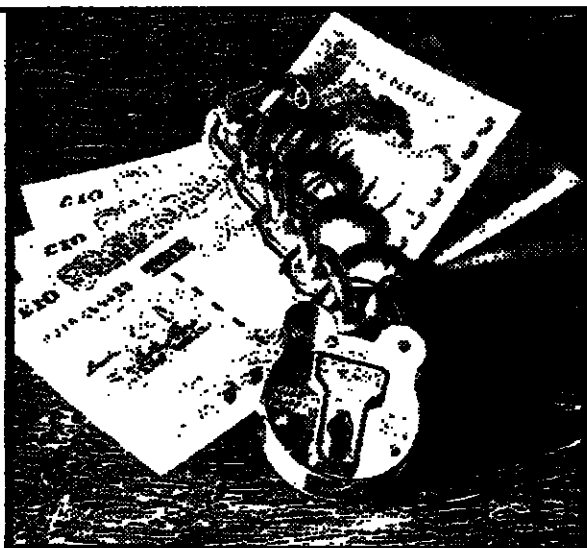
- The elderly
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- Women out at night alone
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Cypriots accused by rape claim mother

By A STAFF REPORTER

AN ENGLISH mother who was fined £400 by a Cyprus court for inventing a rape allegation returned home yesterday insisting that she had been sexually attacked.

Susan Warburton, 30, and her boyfriend, Paul Shear-smith, 26, said that threats by Cypriot police had made them sign statements saying that they made up the story for an insurance fraud. They said police did not want to prosecute her attacker because he was from a prominent family.

The couple said they would take legal advice in Britain. A police spokesman in Cyprus said that they had been properly treated throughout the investigation.

Warburton, who has four children and lives in Hazel Grove, near Manchester, was examined by a doctor after her return. She described her experiences in Cyprus as "horrible". Warburton alleged that she was raped in her hotel room by a man she and Shear-smith had befriended while her boyfriend was in the bar.

Shear-smith, who was also fined £400, said: "The police split us up and told us we would go to prison unless we signed statements that we did it for the insurance money. They told me Susan had said we'd done it for the money."

"The conditions they kept us in were disgusting: there was no water, no sheets, and rats and cockroaches everywhere."

The Foreign Office said last night: "We regard the matter closed as they pleaded guilty."

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY AUGUST 27 1997

MI5 mole was failed journalist

Andrew Neil, then Editor of *The Sunday Times*, with Shayler, far left, as a trainee

'Born rebel' printed Spycatcher extracts as student but was rejected by the Editor of *The Sunday Times*, reports Michael Evans

DAVID SHAYLER, whose account of MI5 bugging operations has embarrassed his former employers, was allowed to join the Security Service despite publishing extracts of the banned *Spycatcher* book as a student journalist.

He later began a career in journalism but, after six months as a graduate trainee with *The Sunday Times*, he was regarded as "not up to scratch" and left. He joined MI5 soon afterwards.

The Security Service should have read his last school report before he went up to Dundee University in 1984, where he eventually obtained an upper second class honours degree in English. Written by Andrew MacTavish, headmaster of John Hampden Grammar School in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, the report said: "He is a born rebel who likes to sail close to the wind... and suffers neither fools nor their arguments gladly."

Mr MacTavish, who became headmaster in 1983, said yesterday that his former pu-



Shayler: pictured as a first-year undergraduate

pil had never caused any trouble at school but was extremely ambitious. "He was undoubtedly very clever and as such was bound to do well," he said. Mr Shayler was then living in Beaconsfield, although his family later moved.

His personal contribution to

the *Spycatcher* affair in 1988 provided an uncanny precursor of what he himself would do nearly ten years later. In *Spycatcher*, Peter Wright, also a former MI5 officer, alleged that MI5 had "bugged and burgled" its way around London in the 1960s and 1970s. The Government tried to prevent its publication, but was eventually defeated by the book's release in Australia and the United States.

Mr Shayler became editor-in-chief of *Annasch*, the student magazine in Dundee, in December 1987. He took over after a gap year teaching English at a school in France. He described the eight issues of the magazine under his editorship as the most controversial in its 21-year history.

The headline on the extracts was "My country, Wright or wrong?" Some senior figures at the university thought that Mr Shayler should have been sacked.

Mr Shayler left Dundee in 1989. In October of that year he was taken on with three other graduates for a three-year fellowship with *The Sun-*



Corridors of power: Mr Shayler alleged that MI5 bugged targets with apparent left-wing links, some of whom are now in the Government

day Times. Hundreds of graduates had applied. Mr Shayler had cut his teeth as a reporter by writing two stories as a freelance that were printed in *The Sun*.

After a six-month assessment of his work, Andrew Neil, then Editor, decided he was not good enough and he applied to join MI5 under its graduate entry scheme. MI5 is now taking very seriously the disclosures by its former employee who, in his six years working for the Security Ser-

vice, did not rise very high but had the same access as all staff to classified material.

His article in *The Mail on Sunday* caused a frantic series of meetings and discussions with legal advisers, to decide what action could be taken.

There was also concern that some of the contents of his article were either incorrect or misleading. Mr Shayler, 31, claimed that MI5 was riddled with bureaucracy and paper-shuffling and that operations were jeopardised by an obses-

sion with rules and procedures.

Security sources said that one of the reasons why there was now more bureaucracy was because MI5 was governed by an Act of Parliament and every decision had to be carefully weighed to ensure that any action taken was in accordance with the terms of the legislation. Mr Shayler also claimed that Stephen Lander, the present Director-General of MI5, who succeeded Dame Stella Rimington,

was a career bureaucrat who had little experience of running agents in the field or counter-terrorist investigations. However, Mr Lander is acknowledged to be the most experienced person in MI5 in dealing with Irish terrorism — he was the director of Irish counter-terrorism for years.

Security sources indicated that the errors in Mr Shayler's article were one of the reasons for the deep concern about the need to take appropriate action. MI5 is understood to be

anxious to put the record straight about some of the telephone-tapping allegations, especially because of the implication that all 1970s files were still around and in use by the new management.

Mr Lander has volunteered a report on the matter to Jack Straw, the Home Secretary. A Home Office spokesman said yesterday that the two would meet soon and "consideration is being given to what if any action should be taken" against Mr Shayler.

Ministers were encouraged to fear 'Reds under bed'

Seventies targets were selected in context of potential Soviet threat to Britain, writes Michael Evans

THE long list of names of well-known and less well-known public figures who were bugged, tailed, watched or generally monitored by MI5 in the 1970s for suspicion of being under the influence of the Kremlin has come back to haunt the new management at the Security Service.

The weekend newspaper revelations by David Shayler, who resigned from MI5 five months ago and is now keeping well away from his former employers in a European country, have highlighted how seriously the Security Service regarded the potential threat from domestic subversion during that period.

MI5 today is quick to point out that it has been on the statute books since the 1969 Security Service Act, that a special judicial commissioner now oversees all telephone-tap warrants, that the potential threat of KGB-inspired sub-

version in Britain has ended with the fall of the Soviet Union and that, if all else fails, there is now a parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee which has the power to summon the heads of the agencies to demand to know what is going on.

Although telephone taps still required an official warrant from the Home Secretary in the 1970s, the assessment of the potential threat from certain organisations and individuals at that time was based on a totally different view of the world. Ministers were encouraged to worry about "Reds under the bed".

Thus, trades union leaders,

civil liberty groups, left-wing journalists, political activists, Communist Party members and anyone who was thought to have anarchic or subversive tendencies that might undermine parliamentary democracy were liable to receive attention from MI5, which was then based at the north end of Gower Street and in half a dozen other buildings in London.

The embarrassment for the Security Service is that individuals who were on the watch list 20 years ago should end up as government ministers.

Mr Shayler has named Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, Peter Mandelson, Minister

without Portfolio, and Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, as all having been at one time the subject of MI5 interest.

Mr Mandelson, now on holiday in the United States, has already denied one of the alleged items in his MI5 file, that he was a member of the Communist Party of Great Britain. He agreed that for a brief spell, when he was an 18-year-old sixth-former in 1971-72, he had attended meetings of the Young Communist League.

"But I was never a member of the Communist Party, that is a pure smear," he said.

Other former MI5 officers have revealed more names from the past, people whose jobs or interests caught the eye of the Security Service. Cathy Massiter, who was an MI5 intelligence officer for 14 years, gave her list during a Channel 4 programme in 1985.

UNDER SURVEILLANCE: MASSITER'S LIST



HEWITT



SCARGILL



RUDDOCK

CATHY MASSITER, the former MI5 officer, said its files in the 1970s included reports on:

□ Patricia Hewitt, who was general secretary of the National Council for Civil Liberties from 1974 to 1983. She went on to become an adviser to Neil Kinnock, then Labour Opposition leader, took part in a Labour Party inquiry into the Security Service, and wrote a book called *The Abuse of Power*. She is now Labour MP for Leicester West.

□ Joan Ruddock, who worked for Shelter, the national campaign for the homeless from 1968-73 and was chairwoman of the Campaign for Nuclear

Disarmament from 1981-85. She was always active in politics and pressure groups. She is now Labour MP for Lewisham, Deptford and a junior Minister for Women.

□ Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers. He still has the same job but is also leader of the Socialist Labour Party.

□ Ken Gill, then a Communist general secretary of TASS, the white-collar section of the engineering union, and a member of the TUC general council.

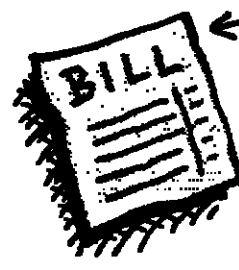
Ms Massiter said his telephone was tapped and his home broken into and bugged when he was holding talks with other trade unionists.

□ Bruce Kent, then CND's general secretary. He is now vice-president and during the last election campaigned for people to vote tactically for the Liberal Democrats in strong Conservative areas.

□ Duncan Campbell, the left-wing journalist who produced a number of scoops that embarrassed the Government and who, in 1987, revealed in the *New Statesman* that Britain was secretly building a spy satellite in a programme codenamed Zircon. He is still a prominent journalist.

□ Mick Costello, then Labour correspondent of the *Morning Star*, is now a business consultant.

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Search team to sniff out body of 'murdered' Royal Marine

Volunteers will travel to Falkland Islands in bid to solve 17-year-old mystery, Daniel McGrory reports

A TEAM that specialises in locating the bodies of murder victims is to travel to the Falkland Islands to look for the remains of a teenage Royal Marine thought to have been murdered 17 years ago.

Falklands police believe Alan Addis, 19, was killed on the orders of a prominent islander who accused him of having an affair with his wife. Detectives have never had the evidence to convict the four islanders suspected of burying the body.

Professor John Hunter, who is part of the team, said: "On a brief reconnaissance trip we identified three sites where we believe his remains may be, and if he is there we have the technology to find him. Everybody down there gets nervous whenever this case is reopened. They should be as we have not reached the end of this story by any means."

Professor Hunter, an archaeologist at Birmingham University, recruited volunteers from the police, industry and universities for the forensic search advisory group. He hopes to employ the radar



Addis disappeared after party at social club

team that uncovered victims of the killer Frederick West.

Another member of the team, Sergeant Mick Swindells of Lancashire police, is training a young border collie to locate hidden corpses.

Sergeant Swindells, who is based in Blackpool, located the body of five-year-old Rosie McCann in Oldham; her murderer was jailed earlier this year. The dog will be left with the

Falkland Islands police after the search operation, which will probably take place in December.

"Some might argue, why bother after 17 years," he said. "But those who murdered Alan Addis deserve to be brought to book and his family would like to be able to bury him with some dignity after all these years of wondering what happened to him."

Mrs Addis, who is now living in America, said: "I just want to get to the bottom of what happened to him and see him laid to rest properly."

Mrs Addis has visited the islands and spoken to those suspected of the murder. Two years ago four detectives from Devon and Cornwall spent two months in the South Atlantic investigating the case and came up with the same names as the local police. They were unable to gather enough evidence to warrant charges.

Marine Addis disappeared two years before Argentina invaded the Falklands. A detachment of 42 Royal Marines was sent to Moody Barracks at Port Stanley to train local people in home defence.

Naval party 8901 was split into small groups and in the depths of winter Marine Addis and two others were sent 75 miles away to the wilderness of North Arm.

The commandos, berthed on the coastal steamer *MV Forrest*, and its merchant seamen decided to celebrate the last night of their week's stay with a visit to the settlement's



Sergeant Mick Swindells, the Blackpool policeman who trains border collies to locate buried human remains

social club, where a party had been arranged by 40 locals. Marine Addis, complaining of stomach cramps, said he would stay on board. However, an hour later he set out to join his comrades. He arrived at the club at 9.30pm and was seen talking to a woman he had befriended.

No one remembers seeing the marine leave but the Ministry of Defence, local police and his family dispute suggestions that he slipped off the jetty or wandered off drunk into the winter wilderness. The *MV Forrest* was at sea when it was noticed that Marine Addis was missing. It was not until 12 hours later that a radio message was sent to Port Stanley. Royal Navy divers failed to find any trace

of his body or his Arctic survival equipment and troops and helicopters scoured the interior with no success.

Mrs Addis was first told that her son had disappeared on patrol. The next day police called at her home to say he had fallen overboard and drowned. The military dismissed the more exaggerated explanation, that he was captured and killed while on a military intelligence operation. They emphasised that he was trained in Arctic warfare and should easily have survived the conditions.

Although the MoD at first told his family that he could have fallen into the sea, repeated tests in the Bay of Harbours have shown that his remains would have surfaced

soon afterwards. To add to the mystery, a sheep farmer was found dead a fortnight later amid rumours that he had overheard a conversation implicating the prominent islander in the killing.

At the inquest, the coroner recorded an open verdict but upset the Addis family by adding that he believed the marine had died accidentally.

The volunteer search team, which includes geophysicists and botanists, as well as the police, has this year helped 33 forces in the recovery of human remains. Ken Greenland, the islands' chief police officer, believes they are his last chance to prove the young marine was murdered.

Professor Hunter said: "As volunteers we have to arrange

time off and find someone to pay for the thermal imaging equipment and ground penetrating radar."

"We will stay with locals and in two weeks we should be able to investigate the suspect sites properly. Those who bury their victims do follow a pattern and ground that has been disturbed remains so for all time."

Sergeant Swindells is confident that the dog he is training will be able to pinpoint the grave. Another of his dogs successfully indicated bones 1,200 years old during an experiment at Bradford University. He added: "Those who committed this murder did not reckon on the advances of technology and forensic science since then."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man stabs pop fans with syringe

A helpline has been set up for pop fans who fear they might have been attacked with a hypodermic syringe. An unknown man was seen plunging the needle into two men at a Primal Scream concert in Glasgow on Sunday. He disappeared into the 7,200-strong crowd after being challenged by another man, who was scratched by the needle.

Netted profit

Two anglers who hooked a dirty bottle while fishing off the Isle of Sheppey, Kent, have been told that it could be worth £10,000. Stephen Gosling and Ralph Willoughby took their catch to Guildhall Museum, Rochester, where experts identified it as an extremely rare wine bottle from the late 17th century.

Rapist returns

A skinhead wanted for the attempted rape of a woman aged 86 in Pocklington, east Yorkshire, could be the same man who raped and murdered Winifred Deighton, 59, a widow, two months ago in Bridlington, police believe. In the latest attack the man fled when he was disturbed by a woman security guard.

Car hits pram

A boy aged 22 months was in Glasgow Royal Infirmary with head injuries after his pram was struck by a car on a pedestrian crossing. The light had been on green for traffic, but a van had stopped to allow the boy's mother to push him across. The pram was then struck by a "blinded" car obeying the lights.

Clapper happy

The beadle at Kirkcaldy Old Parish Church, Fife, thanked divine intervention for his life when the 80lb iron clapper of the 290-year-old bell he was ringing fell down the tower, smashed through the floor and came to rest on a lower floor directly above the congregation — leaving a rust mark on the back of his shirt.

Near the knuckle

A man was knocked unconscious by a 40mph rollercoaster as he lent over to pick up keys dropped from a carriage. Adyn Chapman, 20, who works on the ride on Clacton Pier, Essex, lay between the rails until the machine was stopped. He was treated for head injuries in hospital and later released.

Camera obscura

A man who lost his new camera in the mud at the Glastonbury Festival has it back after a woman found it, developed the film and recognised him from one of the photographs — on the dance floor of a club in Nottingham. Kirsty Kelly-Lewin had picked up Andy Sotherton's camera after losing hers the same way.

CORRECTION

The total eclipse reported on Monday, August 25, will occur at 11.11am on Wednesday, August 27, 1997.

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Police charged over strip show

BY A STAFF REPORTER

TWENTY-TWO police officers are to face disciplinary action over a striptease show at a police training college, it was disclosed yesterday.

The Police Complaints Authority said it was recommending action against the officers following allegations that they had "engaged in or acquiesced to unacceptable behaviour" with a female stripper.

Six officers are to be charged with discreditable conduct, and one faces further charges of falsehood and perjury. The rest are to be formally admonished or given advice over their conduct.

Lancashire police asked the authority to investigate after a woman officer complained about the show last February at the force's headquarters training school at Hutton, Lancashire.

Still taken from a video of the stripper's act were later published in a national tabloid newspaper. According to the paper, the stripper undressed a male officer who was celebrating his birthday at the

school's social club, and had him lick chocolate sauce and whipped cream from her naked body.

Afterwards, three Lancashire officers were suspended and a number of officers from other forces were sent home.

Apart from the Lancashire officers, the authority recommended disciplinary action against police from Cleveland, Cumbria, Devon and Cornwall, Essex, Humberside, Northamptonshire, Staffordshire, West Mercia, West Yorkshire and the Metropolitan Police.

Officers from Fife, the Isle of Man and the Royal Ulster Constabulary were also present, but the authority's jurisdiction extends only to forces in England and Wales.

Clare Mitchell, a member of the complaints authority who examined the case for disciplinary issues, said: "This has been an unusual incident in that it has involved police forces throughout England."

Lancashire police said that the three officers from its force remained suspended.

One in six supermarket till receipts 'is wrong'

BY ROBIN YOUNG

RESEARCHERS have proved what most shoppers already suspect: that their grocery bills do not add up. A report yesterday revealed that one in six till receipts from the biggest supermarkets is wrong.

Shoppers recruited by The Grocer magazine found they were overcharged for some of the goods bought. Despite millions of pounds invested in new technology at checkouts, till errors were still found at Sainsbury's, Tesco, Safeway and Morrisons stores. Some shoppers were charged twice for the same product, others were charged an inflated price and sometimes a more expensive item appeared on the receipt.

The mistakes were discovered in the past 12 weeks

after The Grocer decided to carry out a weekly price check on 33 typical items.

Errors found on the till receipts included one cola drink for the price of two, standard own-label orange juice for the price of premium, and discounted prices on the shelves not being honoured at the checkout.

One shopper in the North East found he had been charged twice for a £1.25 bottle of Diet Coke at Sainsbury's. Not all the mistakes are in the shops' favour. One customer found he had not been charged for a bottle of wine.

Since June, shoppers employed by The Grocer have carried out 96 shopping trips. They found that 14 of the till receipts were wrong.

A spokeswoman for the magazine said: "We found

human error was to blame in most cases. The speed with which some checkout staff pass items over scanners is bound to lead to mistakes."

A spokesman for Sainsbury's said: "It would have been helpful if the magazine's shoppers had made the errors known to the store at the time, so they could have been either explained or corrected."

A Consumers' Association spokeswoman said yesterday: "The only way to be absolutely sure you are not paying over the odds is to go to the supermarket equipped with calculator, notebook and pen, taking down what everything should cost and keeping a running total which can be compared with the total charged at the till."

National policies go up in smoke as states cut own tobacco deals

A triumph for Florida, a relief for the tobacco industry, and a superb illustration of the growing problems in governing America. Those are the verdicts which might be stapled to Monday's settlement in which five of America's largest tobacco companies agreed to pay Florida \$11.3 billion (about £7 billion) in return for dropping smoking-related lawsuits.

Florida followed Mississippi in striking a unilateral pact with the industry. It jumped the gun while the proposed \$368.5 billion settlement between state governments and tobacco companies waits for approval from Congress and President Clinton, required



AMERICAN AGENDA
BRONWEN MADDOX

because the deal affects an individual's right to sue. Texas and Minnesota are now planning to follow their

own course within months. Anti-tobacco groups fear that the piecemeal approach carries a risk of undermining the national deal. More importantly, it is a symptom of the way political power is shifting from Washington to the courts and the states in a way that threatens the ability to design coherent policies applying to the whole country.

Under the Florida deal, Philip Morris, RJR Nabisco and other large cigarette companies will pay the state \$11.3 billion over the next 25 years to settle medical claims for smoking-related diseases. They will tear down billboards near schools, stop advertising at sports events, pay for anti-

smoking campaigns and remove vending machines from places where children might reach them.

The immediate effect is to strengthen the deal Mississippi struck in June, which gave that state the benefit of any concessions won in deals with other states. But anti-smoking campaigners are afraid that unilateral deals will weaken pressure for the national settlement brought by 40 states and individual smokers, which has an extra section enabling the federal Government to regulate tobacco as a drug and to insist on lower nicotine levels. They are most worried about the chance that Minnesota will hold out for a

jury trial, which could yield a verdict wildly at odds with other deals.

The growing role of the courts in shaping policy is not new. What has changed is the fondness of juries for setting huge punitive damages to "send a message", often directed against big business.

As *The Wall Street Journal* argued on Monday, in an editorial on "our crazed legal system", it has become rational for companies to settle for large sums to avoid the chance of huge, unpredictable costs. It is no surprise that shares of tobacco companies have risen steadily as the settlements have pro-

ceeded. Indeed, the tobacco industry might think itself lucky not to be as badly hit as breast implant companies, many of which have been driven towards bankruptcy despite more than 20 recent scientific studies failing to show that implants caused the illnesses in question. On Monday, as Florida was announcing its smoking deal, Dow Corning, an implant manufacturer, agreed to pay \$2.4 billion to settle 300,000 claims.

As well as illustrating the new power of the courts, the tobacco deal, dreamed up by state attorneys-general, shows the way power is shifting from Washington to the state capi-

itals. That has been pronounced since the end of the Cold War weakened one of Washington's main roles in the eyes of the rest of the country. It has accelerated since Mr Clinton and other Southern politicians came to power, with their very Southern instincts for handing power back to the Governors.

The danger is that these trends will make it impossible to design national policy. The warning springs clearly out of last year's most grandiose piece of lawmaking — the Telecoms Bill, intended to set ground rules for a decade and boost competition, an area where America badly lags behind Britain. But the right of

state regulators to overturn law in their region is making it less likely to be implemented.

The two questions left open by the tobacco deal are how to repair the legal system, and how much policy-making power can be given to the states without threatening America's ability to work effectively as one country. Ironically, the last White House attempt to look at the problems of the courts failed because of such legal and local challenges. The symptoms may be getting clearer: the solutions are not.

Pressure to settle, page 23

America braced for the return of El Niño

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA is bracing itself for one of the wettest winters of the century after scientists predicted fierce storms, huge waves and up to three times the region's normal rainfall thanks to the so-called El Niño effect.

An epic meteorological "event" was forecast with rare confidence by San Diego experts monitoring the rapid warming of the equatorial Pacific. A five-degree jump in surface water temperatures there has brought storms and flooding to coastal South America and is expected to wreak havoc with normal winter weather patterns across much of the northern hemisphere.

This year's El Niño, which is already being blamed at least partly on global warming, could bring 200 per cent of normal rainfall to America's Pacific coast before Christmas and 300 per cent after, said Nicholas Graham of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. "This is an event to be reckoned with," he told 250 Red Cross and emergency workers at a Scripps workshop on El Niño.

"There is the possibility of extreme events, 300 per cent above normal rainfall is as large as it gets in southern California."

El Niño is named after the Spanish word for child because its worst effects are usually felt around Christmas. Once little-understood, it is now blamed for storms, flooding and even blizzards that can occur thousands of miles from the main warming zone off Peru. Once expected every five to seven years, the effect is now being felt in California at least every other year.

In the winter of 1994-95, El Niño brought up to ten inches of rain a day and severe flooding even to inland cities such as Sacramento, the state capital. In March 1995 a section of the state's eight-lane north-south artery, the Interstate 5, was washed away by a flash flood. The Russian River, north of San Francisco, rose 32ft in 24 hours during one storm, and the Sierra Nevada found itself under a foot of new snow on June 15.

The state's emergency services are taking no chances this year. In the heat of the summer, storm drains and flood channels are already being cleared.

Cyber soldiers set sights on tomorrow's war

FROM IAN BRODIE IN FORT HOOD, TEXAS

WHAT does tomorrow's American frontline soldier do when he runs out of water? He sends an e-mail asking to be resupplied.

Except that by then he may no longer be called a soldier, but rather a Land Warrior in the Army After Next.

After two years of trial and considerable error, the US Army has decided that computers can help to lift the fog of war. The Pentagon has just given the go-ahead for much wider use of electronic systems for an advanced war-fighting experiment. The goal is to give US ground troops such super- or information on the battlefield that foes are quickly outmanoeuvred.

The Ministry of Defence is paying close heed. Liaison officers from the British Army watched the early exercises and will return in November when the concept is tested on a broader scale.

The laboratory of futuristic warfare is at Fort Hood, 400 square miles of parched terrain in the heart of Texas. One brigade has been used for initial trials and now the entire Fourth Infantry Division is to be "digitised".

That means more than 2,000 vehicles, tanks, artillery and helicopters will be linked together by computers relaying critical information about the position of "friendly" forces and latest sightings of the enemy. The Fourth Infantry Division has so many new gadgets that curious outsiders enabling them to see far across the battlefield, day or night, through a video camera mounted on their rifle sights. The viewfinder also told them their location.

From their laptops, Lieutenant Remaly's reconnaissance

patrols sent maps to him at platoon headquarters giving exact enemy positions. He knew where his men were and how close he could call in artillery strikes.

In the Gulf War, such pinpoint accuracy might have prevented many "friendly fire" deaths. During search-and-destroy missions in Vietnam, a battlefield Internet locator could have made the searches less hazardous for Americans.

Between exercises, staff officers with the Fourth Division are permanently engaged in on-screen electronic war games. It is the military equivalent of playing chess against IBM's Deep Blue. Division headquarters looks like NASA mission control, each officer with a laptop. The commanding general stands before half a dozen screens showing the battle from different angles.

Putting together digital forces is expensive. The Pentagon has already spent \$250 million (£156 million) and is embarking on a course that could eventually cost \$4 billion to outfit ten divisions.

That goal is still a long way off although William Cohen, the Defence Secretary, in his defence review, strongly endorsed the creation of an "information age" army. The present target is to equip the Fourth Infantry Division with computers by 2000, followed by the 1st Cavalry Division, creating the first electronic corps no later than 2004.

The Nintendo generation feels right at home. Old sweats are more sceptical. They always keep a compass and a real map tucked in their packs for when the computers crash.

needed half a dozen cables and connectors to plug all parts together. Lieutenant Remaly said: "It was like wearing an octopus. It was also unreliable."

When it did work, though, the "poor bloody infantry" felt they had been upgraded to first-class. They were exuberant about the viewfinder enabling them to see far across the battlefield, day or night, through a video camera mounted on their rifle sights. The viewfinder also told them their location.

From their laptops, Lieutenant Remaly's reconnaissance



A US soldier tests a cyber system with television sights, digital communications and computer links. The army wants to equip its Fourth Division with computers by 2000

◀ The Nintendo generation feels right at home. Old sweats remain more sceptical ▶

Sultan wins immunity in sex case

By GILES WHITTELL

THE Sultan of Brunei, the world's richest man, has been granted "sovereign immunity" from a sexual harassment lawsuit filed against him by a California beauty queen whom friends have called "naïve at best".

Shannon Marketic, a former Miss USA, claims she was invited to the oil-rich sultanate under false pretences last year and once there was gassed, sexually manhandled and held a virtual prisoner in the palace for 32 days.

She is seeking \$90 million (£56 million) in damages, but faces an uphill struggle proving her case. Top-level diplomatic and justice Department officials have closed ranks against her and other women



Marketic claimed she was a royal prisoner

invited to Brunei have come forward to cast doubt on her story. Declaring that "United States foreign policy interests are at stake, the State Department granted the Sultan a

version of diplomatic immunity last month as "the head of state of a friendly foreign country". On Monday, a Los Angeles federal judge duly dropped his name from Miss Marketic's lawsuit, though the Sultan's brother, Prince Jefri, could still face a trial.

Miss Marketic, 27, alleges that a Los Angeles talent agency offered her an expenses-paid trip to Brunei last summer to do "marketing and promotional work" at the palace for \$3,000 a day, but no sexual services will be required.

The beauty queen, who describes herself as deeply religious, flew to Brunei in August 1996 and was driven to the Sultan's 1,776-room palace. On arrival she claims she was given blood tests for

sexually transmitted diseases and had her passport and return ticket confiscated.

"Shannon freaked out", an actress friend, Kelly Vaughn said on her return, "but what could she do?"

A statement issued by the Sultan's publicist after the decision to grant him immunity called the lawsuit "frivolous and self-serving" and insisted that Miss Marketic "has never been to the royal palace, nor was she ever invited to Brunei by either His Majesty or Prince Jefri".

Gil Grunsky, a producer and friend of Miss Marketic in Los Angeles, has called her a "straight-up, honest woman" who would not have lied about such a trip but who was "naïve" to think sexual favours would not be asked of her.

Cyberspace gives astronaut the right to vote from orbit

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

TEXAN astronauts in space will finally be able to vote for elections on Earth via e-mail.

David Wolf, a space scientist from Houston who is scheduled to be on the Russian space station Mir in November, will send his celestial vote from a lap-top computer straight to a polling station in the Lone Star state during the elections for Houston's city council.

The vote will be encrypted to protect it from prying eyes, and will be decoded in Houston by election officials. According to Tony Garza, the Texas Secretary of State, Dr Wolf's vote will speed through space to Russia, from where it will be diverted to the American space agency NASA, which

will finally dispatch it — still secret — to Texas. This alliance between science and democracy is the result of the frustration suffered last year by John Blaha, another Texan astronaut on board Mir. He was unable to vote in the state elections last November, having left Earth long before the absentee ballots were drawn up.

Mr Garza, who described himself as "the jerk who wouldn't let Blaha vote", revealed that it was a matter of principle that a Texan astronaut should never again be robbed of his suffrage. He said: "It was terribly frustrating to me. Here we had an individual who clearly wanted to participate in the electoral

process, even though he was in outer space." Texas enlisted the help of Linda Godwin, a computer scientist and a veteran of three space-shuttle missions.

Dr Godwin devised a software programme that should ensure the casting soon of the longest-distance vote in history. The NASA laptops are equipped with a "Vote" icon on the screen. A click of the mouse produces a tiny Internet version of *Stars and Stripes Forever*. The importance of the exercise, Dr Godwin said, was as emotional as it was political. "I can't tell you what it means to know that you're doing the same thing that folks are doing back home."

AROUND AMERICA

Asylum for Korea defectors

Washington: The State Department has granted political asylum to two high-level North Korean defectors who fled their posts in Egypt and France (Tom Rhodes writes).

Jang Seung Il, 48, the North Korean Ambassador to Egypt, who is believed to have valuable information about missile sales to Iran and Syria, left his post in Cairo on Monday last week using a false passport. He was followed by Jang Seung Ho, his brother, who was North Korea's trade representative in Paris.

Cuba 'crop war'

Washington: Cuba accused America of biological warfare yesterday (Tom Rhodes writes). It said a small aircraft registered to the State Department sprinkled the larvae of crop-destroying insects on a potato crop last October and that the insect plague had spread to other crops. The accusations were dismissed as "ridiculous and without merit" by the State Department.

Airborne battle

New York: A judge here has sued a radio talk-show host for libel after the latter referred to him on air as a "drunk", a "senile old dirtbag" and an "embittered old fool" (Tunku Varadarajan writes). Don Imus claimed that his wife was insulted by Judge Harold J. Rothwax when she served as a juror in his court.

Crocs recover

Washington: America's crocodiles are back from the brink of extinction (Tom Rhodes writes). Although a rare sight, there are now more crocodiles than 20 years ago in Florida, their only native home in America. Scientists predict the population may reach 3,000.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Man stalks pop fans with syringe

Netted profit

Rapist returns

Car hits pram

Clapper happy

Charged tip show

Near the knave

Camera obscura

CONNECTION

Is six supermarket receipts 'is wrong'?

De Klerk quits to free his party from past

Mandela praises apartheid leader who paved the way for democracy

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

F.W. DE KLERK, who led South Africa out of the dark age of apartheid to democracy and served in government under Nelson Mandela, left the political stage yesterday and retired as leader of the National Party.

South Africa's last white President said that he was leaving politics to free his party from the "baggage" which linked it with a "guilt-laden past".

An unemotional Mr de Klerk, 61, said in Cape Town: "With my retirement I wish to open a door for the National Party to provide further proof of its dynamic break with the past. With this, the National Party once again enters a further phase as a future-oriented, non-racial party, focused on the challenges and problems of today, tomorrow and the day after tomorrow."

Although freed of its most high-profile link to apartheid, Mr de Klerk's hopes that the party which institutionalised racism would be able to evolve into an effective challenge to President Mandela's African National Congress looked unlikely to be fulfilled.

After months of infighting the party has suffered a haemorrhage of liberals, led by Roelf Meyer. Mr de Klerk's chief negotiator in the run-up to the 1994 elections, who have left the party under pressure from rightwingers. Support

for the party has fallen from a 1994 high of about 20 per cent to 12 per cent, according to recent opinion polls, as it has failed to shed its image of being a movement for mainly white interests and a hiding place for mixed-race Afrikaans-speaking voters in the Western Cape fearful of "black domination".

After eight years as leader of the party, which he took over

setting the pace of South Africa's swift transition from white supremacy to black-dominated democracy.

Last night Mr Mandela praised Mr de Klerk, with whom he shared the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize, for his part in the transformation of the country. "Whatever mistakes he may have made, and it is possible that he has made very fundamental mistakes as many of us have done, I hope South Africa will not forget the role he has played," the President said.

The most bitter comments came from the Far Right. General Constand Viljoen, the Freedom Front leader, said his departure was a "positive development for Afrikaner politics". Robert van Tonder, the Boerestaat Party leader, said Mr de Klerk was leaving under a cloud of contempt and that his treachery to his "own people" [in ending apartheid] was unequalled.

Mr de Klerk proved unable to harness attention to his party while serving as Deputy President under Mr Mandela until June last year, and then as leader of the Opposition.

His only notable act this year was to continue to deny under oath any knowledge of state-sanctioned terrorism and murders while he was President — to the incredulity of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission which has



President Mandela and Mr de Klerk, then Deputy President, celebrate the adoption of South Africa's first democratic constitution in May 1996

ordered him to think a little harder. The denial lost the party what support it may have begun to garner among black conservatives seeking an alternative to the ANC. This slide is likely to continue

as Hennis Kriel, Premier of the Western Cape's provincial government, emerged as the favourite to replace Mr de Klerk when a new leader is elected on September 9.

If Mr Kriel takes the leader-

ship, for which there are no black challengers, the party may risk fading from its once dominant position before 1994 to a minority movement centred in the Cape. Harald Parkendorf, a political ana-

lyst, said Mr Kriel had no profile or support beyond the "Hex River mountains" close to Cape Town. Sensing this, Mr Meyer, the former party secretary-general, said that the party could look forward

to increased marginalisation. "I have no doubt that many more people will now reconsider their political position," he said.

R.W. Johnson, page 16

Sri Lanka seeks poll on Tamil rule

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN COLOMBO

THE Sri Lankan Government plans to call a referendum to push through sweeping devolution proposals designed to hand political power to the Tamil minority. It will be the second referendum in nearly 50 years of independence, a measure of the Government's determination to reduce centralised authority and end 14 years of civil war.

Collapse of the proposals would further alienate the Tamils, who suffered years of discrimination from the ma-

majority Sinhalese. The Government has a one-seat majority in parliament: with support from its allies it remains 12 seats short of the two thirds majority necessary to push through the most radical power redistribution in more than a century.

Hardline Buddhist clergymen, although increasingly less of a political force, will mobilise their full might against the devolution plan. The Government this week embarked on an intensive

campaign of high-level speeches to appeal directly to the people to support the changes, which require constitutional amendments. With the Tamil Tigers taking an unprecedented military beating, this is one of the best chances for peace.

The opposition United National Party, however, has opted for delaying tactics. It will not back the plan unless it is diluted, for fear of giving Tamils their own region in the North and East. President

Bandaranaike Kumaratunga believes that Sinhalese opinion is ready to accept radical measures to address what the Government admits are legitimate Tamil grievances.

Lakshman Kadirgamar, the Foreign Minister, a Tamil, said Sri Lanka ruled out any more ceasefires with the Tigers, who always used them to regroup. "We will never again get bogged down in negotiations with the Tigers," he said. "These people have to be knocked off their perch."

Jamaican vow renews hope in Montserrat

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN PLYMOUTH, MONTSERRAT

JAMAICA'S Prime Minister has promised residents of volcano-troubled Montserrat that he will lead a new international effort to restore the "idyllic" island to its "pristine glory".

P.J. Patterson told them, on a brief visit, that he is "absolutely convinced" the northern third of the island remains safe.

Yesterday, presiding over a meeting of Caribbean Community (Caricom) leaders in Antigua discussing ways to accelerate Montserrat's recovery, Mr Patterson criticised Britain for not moving fast enough to rebuild in the north. He labelled London's response to the volcano crisis as a lesson in "how not to respond to a disaster of this nature".

Caricom and Britain recently began work on two housing projects in the north for about 80 homes. But Britain has halted funds for another 200 homes.

The strong lead taken by Mr Patterson has brought new hope to many Montserratians. "For the first time the Government and the people of Montserrat are seeing that someone has faith in them — that someone is there for them in their time of need," David Brandt, the island's Chief Minister, said.

Up the narrow, winding road to the summit of Garibaldi Hill outside Plymouth, holiday villas with names like Panorama, Trelawny and Island View lie empty. Goats

run wild and cows graze by the side of the road.

Sandwiched between the volcano and a turquoise sea, Plymouth has taken on the appearance of a sick slope after an avalanche of volcanic material buried the city in rock and ash last month.

Scientists monitoring the volcano say they have detected "escalating" activity in recent days with ash vents and minor pyroclastic flows of super-heated gases and rock which cascade down the flanks of the crater.

"Collapse of material from the [lava] dome may lead to further explosions and these may be more intense and longer lived than those already experienced," the Montserrat Volcano Observatory reported yesterday.

Since the volcano first erupted in July 1995, thousands of Montserratians have been forced to abandon their homes. More than half of the island's 11,000 residents have gone abroad. Many of those who remain now live in crowded refugee shelters.

At the weekend Britain began a voluntary evacuation of the island, but many residents say they are determined to stay and only 22 people have so far boarded the evacuation ferries. According to scientists, the volcano's dome now measures about 75 to 80 million cubic metres, and is growing by up to six square metres, about the size of six fridges, a second.

There are some very precious parts of the dome. There's an enormous amount of it sitting above the valley, leading to Plymouth," said Dr Stephen Sparks, the Bristol university volcanologist who now heads the team of eight scientists at the observatory. But Dr Sparks said the north is relatively safe. Even in the unlikely event of an eruption ten times the size of the most violent so far, there would probably be little threat to lives or property in the north.

Leading article, page 17.

WORLD SUMMARY

Hamas to carry on campaign

Jerusalem: The militant Islamic group, Hamas, rejected yesterday a Palestinian Authority request to suspend armed attacks against Israel (Ross Dunn writes). Hamas said it viewed armed struggle as a "strategic choice and a strong line of defence for the Palestinian people".

A senior aide to Yasser Arafat, the authority's President, confirmed that the Palestine Liberation Organisation had asked Islamic groups to stop attacks against Israel. The rejection of the request allows Mr Arafat to act strongly against the groups. But this is an option he has ignored, embracing Hamas leaders at a recent conference.

Jailed Krenz lodges appeal

Berlin: Egon Krenz, East Germany's last hardline Communist leader, lodged an appeal yesterday against his manslaughter conviction for the deaths of refugees killed in the 1980s as they tried to flee over the Berlin Wall.

A Berlin court on Monday sentenced Krenz to 6½ years in prison. He was immediately led away to jail because authorities feared he would flee, although his sentence will not become legally binding until his appeal is heard. (Reuters)

Doomsday cult enjoys revival

Tokyo: The Aum Shinrikyo doomsday cult, blamed for deadly nerve gas attacks, is undergoing a revival, security authorities said. A total of 427 Aum followers were arrested after the 1995 gas attack on Tokyo subways which killed 12 and injured thousands, but 138 returned after their release. Aum's fortunes changed after a legal panel rejected a government request to outlaw it, officials said. (AFP)

Pressure to free China dissident

Hong Kong: A dozen democracy campaigners marched to the office of Tung Chee-hwa, the Chief Executive, to demand that China release Wang Dan, 27, one of the Tiananmen Square protest leaders. Now serving an 11-year sentence, Wang was reportedly suffering from severe headaches and a stomach disorder. (AP)

Mother's day

Calcutta: Volunteers sang Happy Birthday as Mother Teresa marked her 87th birthday at the headquarters of the Missionaries of Charity. "Work for the poorest of the poor," she told them. (Reuters)

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Kaunda: shot grazed the top of his head

Plot claim by shot Kaunda rejected

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF IN LUSAKA

PARAMILITARY police patrolled Zambia's capital, Lusaka, and provincial towns yesterday because of continuing protests over the shooting of Kenneth Kaunda, the former President, and an opposition political leader.

Dr Kaunda, 73, was slightly wounded by a bullet that grazed his head on Saturday after an opposition rally was cancelled and the crowd dispersed by police. Roger Chongwe, chairman of an opposition alliance of five Zambian parties, is recovering in hospital after also being hit by a bullet.

Fifty-three opposition supporters detained by police on Saturday remain in custody.

The Government has said it will investigate the apparent police shooting of the two men, but it rejected Dr Kaunda's accusation that it was a failed state plot to kill him. "We have no intention of eliminating him or any other opposition leader," said David Mpumbu, the Information Minister.

Tribal elder fights skull return

FROM REUTERS IN PERTH

A TRIBAL elder claiming to be the descendant of Yagan, a 19th-century Aboriginal whose skull was recently exhumed from a grave in Liverpool, has threatened to crack a few contemporary skulls.

Corrie Bodney, who claims to be Yagan's oldest living relative, is fighting a battle with a rival clan which wants the head returned to Australia against his wishes. Mr Bodney took legal action to stop

the other clan from retrieving the skull, but was thwarted when his rivals flew to England on Monday before the case could be heard. "If we don't get an action in the court, it goes the other way, then it leaves me no alternative but to carry out traditional customary law against those who have broken the law," Mr Bodney told an Australian radio station yesterday. "That would entail a hit over the head with a dowsak — that's a fighting stick, a men's fighting stick."

The court action was due to be heard on Friday, but the delegation flew off to England on Monday to collect the skull and bring it back to reunite it with the body in a traditional burial ceremony. Mr Bodney said the delegation had no right under Aboriginal laws to proceed with its plan.

Robert Brophy, one of four elders who flew to England, said before he left that the suit was against Aboriginal culture. "It's depriving our statesman Yagan to have his head returned to his body," he said.

Dutch social experiments go astray



The Netherlands' liberal policies have spawned drug cafes, an idea Europe is unlikely to copy

IN THE Amsterdam version of Madame Tussaud's waxworks, Tony Blair has already taken his place alongside an impossibly slim Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and a gaunt Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister. As the backpackers shuffle onwards, the penny (or the guilder) drops: both Britain and Germany are looking to The Netherlands, the social laboratory of Europe, for fresh ideas.

They should be warned: sometimes these ideas flop. Take the car pool, a project likely to appeal to the Labour Government. The Dutch have more cars per head than Britain — 382 per 1,000 inhabitants against 372. They had hoped to unlock the many traffic jams by dedicating stretches of motorway for car-poolers and buses, rewarding those who share their vehicles. The plan was borrowed from America where HOV — High Occupancy Vehicle — lanes already account for some 909 miles.

The Dutch set up a trial 4.2 mile stretch on the A1 between Amsterdam and Hilversum, at a cost of about £20 million. Apart from the satisfaction of being able to speed past cars without passengers, car-poolers were offered tax breaks. Yet the scheme collapsed.

Relieving the separate lane proved hugely expensive. Watchtowers had to be constructed, cameras installed and police motorcycle patrols roared up and down the lane — separated by a concrete wall from the rest of the motorway — to catch cheats. Some drivers installed two life-

Europe sees The Netherlands as an efficient laboratory for changing society. But Roger Boyes in Amsterdam discredits the idea



size inflatable dolls to qualify for the pooling lane. Undertakers insisted their corpses should count. Pregnant women reckoned that their unborn children increased the passenger toll. Traffic jams built up at the start of the car-pool lane (where a barrier blocked entry) and at the exit. Drivers complained that it was impossible, when travelling to four or five business appointments a day, to organise passengers for each trip. The lane was therefore discriminatory. In the end, the courts agreed: car drivers travelling alone had the right to be treated equally with those sharing their cars. The experiment was dropped.

Similar stories are told about other aspects of Dutch society which, in challenging taboos, seems to be setting itself up as a stimulating model. German Social Democratic deputies recently travelled to The Netherlands to find ways of reforming the welfare state and cutting unemployment. They were unimpressed.

Dutch unemployment had been cut from 12 per cent in 1982 to about 6.3 per cent, but the German politicians deplored the loss in Dutch job security, the large number of people in temporary employment (approaching 20 per cent), the high number in

inheritance laws that apply to married heterosexual couples. The number of open homosexuals in the services — and more importantly the police force — is increasing rapidly.

At city or town council level, there are dozens of small-scale initiatives. Kindergartens are being merged with old people's homes to stimulate pensioners.

Some experiments amount to little more than gimmicks: policemen are being put on inline skates to control pedestrian precincts. Subsidies to artists led to such an overproduction of paintings that the state had used up all available storage space for these often mediocre works.

The big socio-ethical reforms — liberalisation of drugs and tolerance of euthanasia — are unlikely to be exported to Britain or Germany, though some German cities have copied a few elements of the Dutch drug model.

In north Germany, there is active discussion as to whether marijuana should be made available in pharmacies. But the heavy criticism of Dutch drug policy by France has set back the hopes of liberalisation that drugs would be decriminalised throughout the European Union.

Some so-called coffee shops — soft drug cafes — are even asking for passports before selling joints. Euthanasia, legally tolerated in The Netherlands under certain conditions, continues to spark angry debates and the disapproval of the Vatican. No other European country is eager to copy this particular Dutch model.

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Army splits ranks in Bosnia power clash

FROM MISHA SAVIC IN BANJA LUKA

THE tussle for power in the Serb half of Bosnia intensified yesterday, with half the army's top generals supporting President Plavsic of Republika Srpska in her attempt to wrest power from Radovan Karadzic, the war crimes suspect.

Four of the Serbs' eight senior army commanders met Mrs Plavsic in her stronghold of Banja Luka. Those who stayed away included the army's Chief of Staff, General Pero Colic, a deputy of his, and the commanders of the two

army corps in the eastern half of Bosnia, which is under the control of Dr Karadzic and his allies in their stronghold of Pale, east of Sarajevo.

The boycott by four generals suggested that the army, like all other Bosnian Serb institutions, is split in the struggle between Dr Karadzic and Mrs Plavsic, a Serb nationalist and former Karadzic ally who now accuses him of getting rich while his people starve.

Comments attributed by pro-Karadzic media to General Colic, the present Chief of

Staff, indicate he supports Dr Karadzic. General Colic was attending a meeting near Sarajevo yesterday with Nato officials and his Muslim and Croat counterparts. Spokesmen for the Nato-led peace force said he would be reminded that the military should stay out of the Karadzic-Plavsic struggle.

Bosnian Serb army sources said before Mrs Plavsic's meeting with the generals that she would name a replacement for General Colic. Her favourites are General Momir Talic, commander of the Banja Luka-based 1st Corps, or General Novica Simic, 3rd Corps commander.

Mrs Plavsic said on Monday she would see "whether the Chief of Staff and the corps commanders are people who know where the place of the army is."

Although she says Serbs should settle the power struggle by themselves, the peace force and international envoys have given her key backing. Hundreds of British and Czech soldiers with the force intervened last week to foil an alleged attempt to oust her.

The main American aid agency has lent support to Mrs Plavsic, announcing its first loans — of \$1.1 million — to Bosnian Serb companies. This is part of a package agreed with Mrs Plavsic and seems intended to underline that those who support the Dayton peace accord — as Mrs Plavsic says she does — will get funding denied to Dr Karadzic, whose half of Bosnia is desperately poor. (AP)



Mrs Plavsic greets supporters at her Banja Luka office

French pioneers caught out by the Net

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

MINITEL, the home-grown French computer service, is being outpaced by the global Internet and is heading for extinction. Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, warned his fellow countrymen this week.

The Minitel system, a computer network linked by telephone lines pioneered by France in the early 1980s, was a justified source of intense national pride that spread rapidly to more than a fifth of French homes. But the system, almost entirely in French and offering a wide variety of services from train timetables to telephone directories to weather reports, is gradually being overtaken by the world-wide Internet.

In a speech at a communications seminar on Monday, M Jospin said that France was falling behind other industrialised nations in its access to the Internet and its use of the new technology. He called for the "vast range of Minitel services to be transferred to the Internet."

"The question of Minitel's future is important. Its simple format and the security it offers for transactions have provided an example of what users can expect from new networks like the Internet," he said.

But he added that the Minitel, as "a uniquely national system, is technologically limited and risks putting an increasing brake on new and promising information technologies."

According to France Telecom, the state telephone company, just 15 per cent of French families have a home computer, compared to 40 per cent in the United States. More than six million Minitel screens are currently in use in France, but the technology has hardly changed since the system was first launched.

Yeltsin hits back at Mir critics

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN took a verbal swipe yesterday at critics of Russia's Mir space station, declaring that the orbiter was in good working order and would continue to serve for the foreseeable future.

Speaking during a visit to the Volga River city of Saratov, the Russian leader borrowed an old Communist slogan used to describe Lenin, when he insisted Mir "is alive and will keep on living."

On Monday night, NASA caused a mini-crisis when it announced that both of Mir's oxygen-generating systems had broken down and that the three-man crew of two Russian cosmonauts and the British-born astronaut Michael Foale had enough air for a few days. "There is no tragedy here," said the Kremlin leader, who insisted the oxygen generators had been repaired.

"They [the Americans] thought the station was finished. They thought we could no longer do experiments on it... but it is still alive."

Although the NASA claims were correct, the announcement from Houston came after the Elektron oxygen generator and the back-up cannister system had already been repaired and the crew had gone to sleep.

Russian space officials yesterday reacted angrily to what they regard as interference

from their American partners, who are essentially paying guests on Mir, and what they feel is a media circus surrounding Mir's fate.

"To our greatest joy, and I think your disappointment, nothing extraordinary has happened aboard the station," Vladimir Solovoy, the head of Russia's mission control, told reporters. "Everything is fine. We have no problems with the quality of air on board."

Part of the Russian sensitivity about the breakdowns on Mir can be attributed to a culture clash with American working procedures. According to space officials, Mir has had more than 1,500 break-

downs during its 11-year service in space and Russian cosmonauts are used to fixing and repairing parts without fuss, a concept alien to the perfectionists at NASA.

In spite of the differences, the two sides are pressing ahead with long-term plans for Mir, which is receiving an additional 50 amps of electricity after a repair operation on Friday, when essential power cables were reconnected to the orbiter.

Yesterday Yuri Baurin, the secretary of Russia's Defence Council, confirmed he had begun space training to become the first bureaucrat in orbit and hopes to visit Mir in 1998.

Jewish cancer link discovered

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A NEW genetic defect which doubles the risk of colon cancer is particularly common among Jews whose origins lie in Eastern Europe, American scientists have discovered.

Until now, the mutation detected was believed to be no more than minor spelling

errors in the genetic code with no serious consequences. But a study at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and the Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre in New York has shown it to be the commonest cancer-linked mutation found in any ethnic group.

The gene involved is called APC. The new mutation, reported in *Nature Genetics*,

was discovered when a patient who had several colorectal cancers was checked for the known APC variations. Doctors found minor changes called polymorphisms, believed to have no deleterious effects. The same changes were then found in more than a quarter of Ashkenazi Jews with a family history of such cancers.

Flight of Phoenix revives Alpine past

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE first bearded vulture born wild in the Alps for more than a century has been seen on the wing by scientists taking part in a 19-year reintroduction programme.

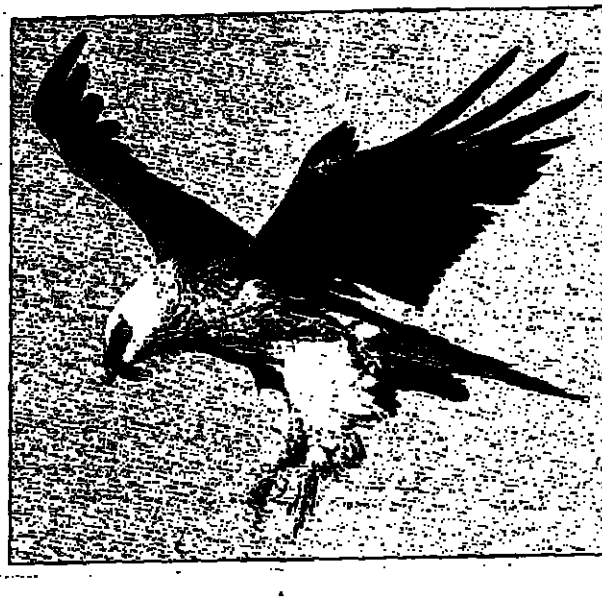
The bird, living in the Haute Savoie region of France, was born in a high mountain eyrie in April. But its birth was kept a secret for fear of human disturbance.

The pair behind the historic birth, a male called Melchior, born at Innsbruck zoo and released into the wild in May 1988, and a female called Assigat, born at Garenne zoo in Switzerland and released in July 1989, had mated in 1994 and were preparing a

nest. But Melchior abandoned it for over a year after interference by a photographer. The new arrival has vindicated efforts by groups including AlpAction, an organisation headed by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, which brings together corporate and green groups to fund conservation schemes.

"The arrival of Phoenix Alp Action [the bird's name] is a tremendous, albeit sadly too rare, victory for conservation and the environment in general," he said in Geneva yesterday.

The last recorded births of bearded vultures in the wild were in Austria and Switzer-



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High heel silver lining

Stiletto heels have made a comeback – in silver, chrome, satin and suede. Style Editor Grace Bradberry chooses four of the best



ABOVE: Black suede and gold piping booties, £120 by Stephane Kelian, 48 Sloane Street SW1. Angora dress, £190 by Plain Sud at selected branches of Whistles. Silver ID bracelet, from £200 by Tateossian 0171-351 5680

ABOVE LEFT: Satin slingbacks, £270 by Jimmy Choo, 20 Motcomb Street SW1. Satin skirt, £130 by Whistles

LEFT: Snakeskin and chrome heel stilettos, £155 by Russell & Bromley, 24/25 New Bond Street, W1. Pencil skirt, lace top, both £130 Marcel Marongiu at Pellicano, 63 South Molton St, W1

RIGHT: Red patent silver spike heel, £230 by Gucci, 33 Old Bond Street, W1. Velvet skirt, £175 by Tracie Boyd at The Cross, 141 Portland Road, W11. Tank top, £90 by Joelynnian at Pellicano, details as before. ID bracelet by Tateossian

Photographer ALEX SARGINSON. Stylist Deborah Brett. Hair Nicola Clarke at Premier for Andrew Jose. Model: Natalie Massey at Storm

Short, sharp shock

Down at fashion police headquarters, the alarm sirens are shrilling. The hippyish, gentle, self-deprecating clothes that have dominated the catwalks in recent seasons, with their narrow shoulders and natural lines, muted colours and pretty little flowery details, have been replaced by a hard-edged, self-confident look that is provocative in every sense of the word. Jackets with shoulder pads sharp enough to suit the most exigent East End wide boy are worn with an abbreviated strip of skirt, some featuring (as though the amount of leg on show wasn't extreme enough already) a bold asymmetric slash.

And the whole lot is perched on vertiginous spike heels in stark shades of patent, snakeskin, suede and satin. In red, black or grey. The best of them, like the Gucci pair shown here, are fitted with a dagger heel of metal, to give a steely glint of menace as one strides out.

It is not, admittedly, the easiest look to get right. The

spectre of Soho hovers over it. Already, shocked parents and staid boyfriends can be heard rehearsing the words to "You're not thinking of going out like that, I hope", and the Cassandra of the fashion pages are issuing warnings that no one over 30 should even attempt it.

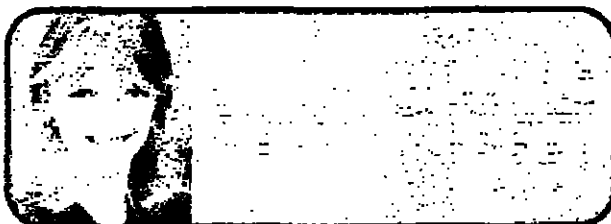
One could, of course, give

The news that a look only works with heels always seems to raise walls of consternation. Impractical, uncomfortable, impossible to move in, people say. Oh, and they make one terribly unpopular, because of the dents they make in parquet flooring.

Of these, only the last statement is strictly correct. It is true that a badly made high heel is an instrument of torture — as detrimental to one's temper as it is to one's feet. But a well-

constructed, properly balanced and fitted stiletto can be a joy to wear, and far more flexible to walk in than the rigid, clomping platforms of last year.

As for impossible to move in — well, in a world full of people rushing about, a slow, graceful saunter can be a very sexy way of getting around. But anyone who has seen Marilyn Monroe belting down the boardwalk in the final scene of *Some Like It Hot* knows that if a girl suddenly needs to put on a turn of speed to catch her millionaire, the fact that she is wearing a pair of high heels is not going to stop her.



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14 ARTSTHEATRE

Julian Glover's role in the new *Chips With Everything* made the veteran actor feel 19 again. Daniel Rosenthal reports

Back with his teeth in the drill



That was then: Senior Officer Cadet Julian Glover (left), during his passing-out parade at Buller Barracks, Aldershot, in 1954

You could say that Julian Glover's preparation for this month's revival of *Chips With Everything* at the National Theatre began in 1954, eight years before Arnold Wesker wrote the play. As Private Glover, aged 19, his basic training as a National Service conscript revolved around the same relentless marching, boot-polishing and barrack-room tensions which Aircraftman Wesker, three years his senior, had already endured in the RAF, and which he would dramatise so vividly in *Chips*.

When the play opened at the Royal Court in 1962, Glover sat in the first night audience, "gobsmacked by the play's power, and thrilled that someone had really shown what the training was like".

Now, under Howard Davies's direction, he is about to play the Wing Commander whose battle of wits with Pip, the Wesker alter ego, threatened with court martial for disobeying an order, is a key element in *Chips*'s examination of conformity and compromise.

The performance will not be modelled on a specific figure from his Royal Army Service Corps days, but "there's no question that I heard the Wing Commander's voice many times among the officers who lectured us".

In rehearsals, he has found himself passing on first-hand insights about military life — "drinking, hygiene, sexual frustration, the stuff you can't research in books" — to Rupert Penry-Jones, who plays

Pip, and the other young actors taking on the roles of the RAF recruits. "After 40 years," he says, "I feel that National Service has finally been useful to me."

For Glover, as for so many of the hundreds of thousands of young men called up to bolster the nation's forces in the postwar years, conscription could hardly have come at a less convenient moment. At Allyn's, his public school in southwest London, he had acted in productions directed by Michael Croft, his English master and founder of the National Youth Theatre, and set his heart on a stage career. The order to report for training at Buller Barracks, Aldershot, arrived just after his first year at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

"I resented every moment of National Service because it kept me from what I wanted to do with my life," he says. "I sometimes wonder why we didn't just say: Sorry, we're not doing this. But after a while, you accepted this ghastly situation and got on with the job."

Like Pip, he was the only ex-public school boy in his billet, his "posh" accent mocked "for as long as it took the boys to realise I was no different". Like Wesker, he eventually came to enjoy square-bashing: the intensive drill which, in the playwright's words, transforms "a rabble of clumsy men... into a disciplined, efficient unit".

"Doing drill well is glorious," Glover says. "There is a tremendous satisfaction in the whole squad's feet coming down absolute-



This is now: Glover is drilled by Corporal Neil Tiller of the Coldstream Guards before tackling his role in the revival of Arnold Wesker's *Chips With Everything*

ly at the same moment, hands coming on to rifles with a resounding slap."

Although the Wing Commander does not have to square-bash, Glover was happy to join the *Chips* conscripts as they began to be knocked into shape by Corporal Neil Tiller of the Coldstream Guards. And for the first few days, he was "much better" at drill than the younger men.

Rehearsals have also made him realise that certain "physical automatics" are legacies of his army training. "We were issued with tiny towels, so after a bath you would remove the excess water by slapping down your body with your hands. I have done that ever since.

And if I stand on stage with my hands behind my back, in the 'at ease' position, I cross my thumbs, as demonstrated by Corporal Hill, the drill instructor in *Chips*."

Private Glover won over his officer selection board at the second attempt. Becoming a second lieutenant meant six weeks of additional training at Aldershot, where he was yelled at by Regimental Sergeant-Major Britten, "the terror of the whole Army" and, adding another level to Glover's connection with *Chips*, the man who trained the actors for the play's Royal Court premiere.

"My attitude was too placid to make me a good officer," Glover says. "But consider what I was

doing: commanding a supply depot in Plymouth and attending courses on how to store meat."

The irony is that, as actor rather than soldier, Glover's imposing height and patrician tones have always made him classic officer material. From the dastardly Lieutenant Northerton in *Tom Jones* (his film debut), to Tullius Aufidius opposite Alan Howard's RSC *Coriolanus* in the 1970s, to the general who blasts the rebel base at the start of *The Empire Strikes Back*, he has frequently been back in uniform.

In 1972, he came close to becoming the most famous officer in movie history: Commander James Bond. "I was a pretty serious

contender when Sean Connery gave up. But we all knew Roger Moore was going to get it." A decade later, that near-miss took on a frisson which still makes Glover smile: he played the villain in *For Your Eyes Only*, blown away by Moore in the final reel.

Wesker, who used his 1994 autobiography, *As Much As I Dare*, to vent his frustration at repeatedly having his new plays passed over by the National's director, Richard Eyre, is clearly, although not unreservedly, delighted about the revival. "I think Richard is as relieved as I am that he is getting one Wesker play in at the end of his reign," he says. "But, without wishing to sound churlish,

I would have preferred it to be a new work."

The RAF chapter in *As Much As I Dare* concludes with Wesker admitting to a "dark and heretical suspicion that conscription kept crime and violence to acceptable levels". He stops short of advocating its reintroduction, as does Glover, who is wary of "sounding reactionary". But Glover adds: "National Service, as Arnold shows in *Chips*, made us think about collective responsibility, about caring for something other than ourselves. We could do with a bit more of that today."

● *Chips With Everything* previews from Friday at the Lyttelton Theatre, London SE1 0JL (0171-928 2252)

EDINBURGH THEATRE: Eliot's spiritual comedy returns to its birthplace

Still a depth to the shallows

This spiritual comedy by T.S. Eliot remains the most — some might say, the only — important play that has had its premiere at the Edinburgh Festival. Although it appeared in 1949, not 1947, that is reason enough for making it part of the 50th anniversary celebrations which the organisers have contrived to throw this year as well as last.

How does *The Cocktail Party* stand up to revival? Well, I had forgotten how often the doorbell rings in Act 1, how much repetitive drawing-room chatter there is, and how cautious Eliot's verbal imagination had become after what he regarded as the failure of the more daring *Family Reunion*. I should have remembered Raymond Williams's accusations: that Eliot tried to spring poetry on the theatrical boulevards, only to lose his nerve and allow the boulevards to squelch the poetry. As another critic wrote, the man who hoped to usher in a new Elizabethan drama became "Pinter on stilts".

Philip Frank's production, sponsored by the Royal Bank of Scotland, is likely to leave you feeling that, yes, it would be as well to cut some of the

The Cocktail Party King's

flatter passages but, no, the play is far from slight. It does, after all, deal with two ways of expressing love. The first is through marriage, here represented by the evolution of self-absorbed Edward and aggressive Lavinia from one of the most quarrelsome couples in London to one of the fondest. The second way, and the one that clearly has Eliot's special blessing, is through self-sacrifice and asceticism. That is the path chosen by Celia Coplestone, the socialite who ends up crucified beside an antihill.

There are some fine performers in Frank's cast. Nobody can look as wet and morally bedraggled as David Bamber, who plays Edward. Nobody can babble and burble so annoyingly as Maggie Smeed, the old gossip who, like Simon Jones's know-all diplomat, turns out to have otherworldly insight and power. The main doubts are at the production's very centre. Catherine Cusack's Celia is so pettish when crossed you can-



Clive Merrison and Catherine Cusack: leads out of place in Philip Frank's production of *The Cocktail Party*

not quite credit the depths she eventually reveals. And Clive Merrison makes a very odd bird of Sir Henry Harcourt-Reilly, psychiatrist, guru and restorer of lost souls.

Maybe he wants to distance himself from Alec Guinness, who reportedly brought all his trademark gravity to the original production, and Rex Harrison, a debonair society shrink: but this edgy, self-doubting figure, with his skull-face and fierce staccato, sometimes seems more neurotic than his neurotics.

Still, he and his fellow players achieve what Eliot wanted. Mystery and boule-

vard drama need not be wholly at odds. No more need religion and everyday reality. The girl we are chatting up over a pink gin may have the makings of a saint and martyr. The doctor who gets embarrassingly drunk may be a guardian angel. The silly old lady who is boring us, the FO fogey who is regaling us with unlikely anecdotes, may be fulfilling purposes we cannot understand. Who knows — God may be at work even in the fashionable drawing rooms of London.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

MATTHEW TRUSLER

Age 20. "But you can knock two years off — that's what most artists tend to do!"

Profession: Violinist. He has been hailed as one of the most remarkable young violinists in years, noted for his rare and almost old-fashioned virtuosity.

Old-fashioned? Though his repertoire is wide, he has made a speciality of works by the great 19th-century composer-virtuosos such as Paganini, Wieniawski and Sarasate. "This music has been almost frowned on in England, where we're a little

embarrassed to show off. It's a shame — there's nothing wrong with virtuosity."

The harder the music the better? "Well, it's true that Schubert and Mozart are more difficult to make a good job of. But when you're young it's much more fun to tackle something that seems to be impossible. A lot of this music is very beautiful. People tend to play it too mechanically, forgetting that someone like Paganini was pretty outrageous on stage."

So outrageous is OK? "It's annoying when hopelessly



untalented players are marketed just because they look good in a swimming costume. But it can't be a bad thing if they really are bringing in an audience who wouldn't normally hear the violin."

Background: "My father's a

violinist, and I asked for a violin before I was two, my parents tell me." Lessons began at two and a half; at 13 he went to the Royal Academy of Music, then studied in Salzburg and Rotterdam, and is now at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia.

Where can we hear him? He will play this year with the Royal Philharmonic, Tenenice and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestras, and give recitals at the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, and St David's Hall, Cardiff.

How does he relax? "I see my friends every day, and they're all non-musicians. I'm madly into sports, and, like everyone else, just try to have fun."

JOHN ALLISON

Mondrian at the Tate

Mondrian: Nature to Abstraction

From the Haags Gemeentemuseum, The Hague

26 July — 30 November 1997

Advance tickets £6.50/£4

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Centenary summer programme in association with THE TIMES

Alan Coren



■ Those whom the photo-opportunity hath joined, let no man put asunder

There surely can be no prospect more guaranteed to fibrillate the carling heart than the sight of an innocent young couple, hand-in-hand, dewy-eyed, and sweetly dimpling, as they prepare to embark together on a lifetime in public relations. Who that observes them take those initial plucky steps into the gawping mob while simultaneously composing their soft pink faces into the first of a million radiant smiles, does not tremble for them? Might he, as she steps, read in something? Might she, as she smiles, reveal a shred of spinach? Might they, attempting a crowd-pleasing, lens-pulling kiss, bang conks? Will they, in short, get it right? More important yet, will they, in long, go on getting it right forever, with nary a lurch, down the long arches of the years that lie, pitfall-strewn, before them?

Bank Holiday Monday was the first day of the rest of William and Fion's life. The phoney war was over, five years of no-quarter tooth-and-claw PR stretched inexorably ahead, the Blairs were about to return in stellar triumph from their Grand Tour of European photo-opportunity — what option did William and Fion have but to gird their loins and charge towards the sound of the promotional guns? So they gird them in faded cotton and plunged into the valley of the Notting Hill Carnival, and we who were there will not soon forget the cold sweat that broke out upon our craning brows as each new career-threatening challenge was so gamely faced: would William and Fion, kined out, perhaps misguidedly, as bygone colonial re-planters, succeed as effortlessly as those to the manner born in draining their cocoons, or would it all end in dribbled chins and stained shirts, would their neo-extrovert bid for a rousing conjoint blast on their neck-hung whistles be thwarted by a recalcitrant pea or a tension-detracted lip, would Fion's fetching Cello-Caribbean jig turn into an undignified purler and a desperate falling grab at the nearest Jamaican rouser? None, thank God, of the above. The lucky couple even managed to sup, in full public view, two tinctures called, in her case, Fresh Lady and, in his, Loose Johnnie, without any members of the huge crowd shrieking out any of the myriad unseemly possibilities, or rolling helplessly around on the cobbles.

So the day, against the odds, went well. But it was only, I repeat, the first day of the thousands which surely separate the happy pair from any realistic bid for a successful end to the business in which all such days are the means. Who that has a calendar does not fear, on their behalf, for the promotional requirements of Ramadan, or Passover, or Diwali, or Burns Night, or even Christmas? Can Fion make a reasonable stab at the fingerbells without entangling her sari, will William appear unacceptably short when the mosque requires him to slip his elevated shoes off, will he look a prat in a sporrán, is either of them capable of eating matzo without blowing fragments into the soup of the guest on their right, should they both sport white beards on the Yuletide charity circuit, or would Fion be thoughtlessly throwing away the tabloid value of her terrific legs if they didn't come as Dick Whittington and Cat?

Not, of course, that there isn't more to major promotional life than festivals: even if we were, for delicacy's sake, to ignore the immense political clout of — we are led to believe — weddings, honeymoons, pregnancies, first teeth, first waddles, first words, all that, when everything likely to go pear-shaped inevitably will, consider the thousands of days and nights during which the couple will be forced to stroll and simper photographically at untemperament-testing venues, risking a bite from the champion borzoi here, a sliced kick-off and pratfall there, a hard hat two sizes too small, an oilskin too big, an unfinished ride on a Saudi camel, a lightning goose from an Italian drunk, an interview with Dame Edna, a spread in *Helio*, to say nothing, as the hapless William will be compelled to, of all those occasions when people come up to him during meticulously planned PR stunts and begin addressing him in Welsh.

Am I too anxious in their behalf? Perhaps: they have, as I say, made a promising start. It's just that ten years is a long time in politics.

De Klerk helped to bury apartheid, but in the end he lost the trust of both blacks and whites, says R. W. Johnson

The man South Africans could never quite forgive

The resignation yesterday of F.W. de Klerk as leader of South Africa's National Party brings to an anticlimactic end a political career which changed not just a country but a continent. Despite the graciousness of the tributes now being paid to him by President Mandela and others, there is no doubt that it has been a spectacularly mistimed resignation.

De Klerk would have been best advised to resign straight after the country's first democratic election in April 1994, an event he played such a large role in bringing about. This, however, would have meant accepting that he was purely a figure of transition and that like Gorbachev — a parallel he always resisted — he had no further role once he had brought the edifice of power he had inherited crashing down.

There was little indication that de Klerk would play such a role when he squeaked in (by only nine votes) as National Party leader in February 1989. He had been a conservative leader of the NP's dominant Transvaal section and was credited with having blocked some of President P.W. Botha's reformist reforms, such as the abolition of the Group Areas Act. This made sense when Transvaal was his constituency — but made no sense once he had a national mandate and when the threat of comprehensive sanctions had become so real.

Under enormous foreign pressure, de Klerk confined himself to generalities during the election campaign, promising only the vaguest of reforms. But on February 2, 1990, he opened parliament with a speech in which he calmly announced the dismantling of the entire apartheid system. Everything was to go: the Bantustans, segregated education, group areas, the Land Acts, classification of people by race, detention without trial — even the security police. On top of that, all the bans on organisations such as the African National Congress, the Pan Africanist Congress and the Communist Party were lifted. Their leaders were released from jail, invited back from exile and further invited to negotiate a new constitution to be based on a common citizenship and universal suffrage. It is on this speech that de Klerk's place in history rests. In one fell swoop he brought democracy and peace to his country and he also shot his

opponents' fox, never allowing them to claim the credit for these reforms.

The sheer boldness of this step threw the liberation movement into confusion, leaving de Klerk the serene master of the game. To many blacks he appeared as a South African Lincoln, while whites trusted this calm but smiling figure who seemed to have a master plan. But there lay the rub. De Klerk believed he could persuade the ANC to accept a permanent form of power-sharing, together with a strongly federal system, and he wanted to tie his opponents down to this deal so that it could not easily be revised by the ultimate one-man, one-vote parliament. As white criticism grew, this was the package de Klerk boldly put before the white electorate in the March 1992 referendum in which he won a 69 per cent "yes" vote.

It was de Klerk's high point. Thereafter he steadily lost the initiative to the ANC and one by one had to abandon his bargaining chips. In the end the ANC won its demand for a constituent

assembly, a centralised system and minimal restraints on simple majority rule. The reasons for this still excite acrimonious debate in South Africa. But a central role was played by the Boipatong massacre in which 45 ANC supporters died. The ANC suspended negotiations and launched a period of mass action. The longer this went on the more obvious it became that the ANC was the only force with any capacity to restore order peacefully — and since de Klerk had ruled out the bad old ways of restoring order by other means, this meant the ANC could name its price.

De Klerk reacted poorly to this rapidly changing environment. Like a man who has shot the rapids he quickly found that it was all he could do to keep his canoe afloat amid boiling white water and jagged rocks. Over and over again he had to accept deals and compromises. He made many mistakes. He did not conduct negotiations himself but preferred to travel the world and bask in the international acclaim, leaving an in-

experienced deputy minister in charge of negotiations. This arrogant overconfidence was compounded by an attempt to demand a 75 per cent majority for the all important power of constitutional amendment. The ANC offered 70 per cent but when de Klerk dug in his heels negotiations broke down and he ended up with a mere two thirds. Moreover, he gave way on many points — to the surprise of ANC negotiators who had expected him to bargain more toughly — because he hoped thereby to build a permanent relationship of trust which would guide a long-serving government of national unity in the future. All such hopes were to fail.

Previous NP leaders had all been international pariahs and de Klerk hugely enjoyed the acclaim he received abroad, culminating in the Nobel Peace Prize he shared with Nelson Mandela. Perhaps he enjoyed it too much. He spent a great deal of time abroad and when Mandela refused to go to Washington with him jointly to receive the

Liberty Medal from President Clinton unless de Klerk first agreed the election date, de Klerk agreed the date even though the constitution and even the electoral system had still to be agreed.

De Klerk had hoped the NP would win 30-40 per cent of the vote in 1994 and was pained to receive only 20.4 per cent. For two years he soldiered on as an impotent Deputy President in a coalition government in which the ANC shared little power. Finally, under pressure from an increasingly restive white electorate, he took the NP into opposition once the final draft of the constitution had been approved.

De Klerk insisted he would now see South Africa through to the development of a healthy multi-party system but his heart was clearly not in it. He has cut a poor — sometimes invisible — figure in opposition, has been pilloried before the Truth Commission for the cruelties of apartheid and has come under increasing attack from the Right for having "sold out" the minorities, especially the Afrikaners. The more he has apologised for past sins the less conviction he has carried with his own constituency. But in the ANC's eyes he can never apologise enough.

There is little doubt that his real motive for staying on was to shield himself from the charge — the worst in the Afrikaner lexicon — of having been a false leader. He repeatedly insisted that the transition had achieved what he wanted — and donated his Nobel Prize to the promotion of the Afrikaans language. In the end, however, his attempt to represent his party and the transition was simply incompatible.

He leaves office a sadly diminished figure apparently intent on devoting himself to the lucrative international lecture circuit rather than as Baroness Thatcher has done. The ANC will cease to pillory him now, but many whites will continue to blame him bitterly. In their eyes he has left them at the mercy of a huge crime wave, a corrupt, hegemonic and incompetent Government presiding over an increasingly ungovernable country. To all of which de Klerk makes the unanswerable reply that "We could not go on the way we did before. No matter how difficult things may be now, they would have been far worse had we not made the change we did."



Hooked on an unworkable law

The Misuse of Drugs Act has divided society and branded half a generation 'criminal'. Now at last there is a chance to think again

I doubt if any law on the statute book has done less good and more harm than the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act. Over its bleak quarter century, a law supposedly protecting ourselves, our children and "society" from harmful products has done the opposite. Their consumption has soared. It has led more young people into prison and a life of crime than any other Act. Distribution of amphetamines, hallucinogens, cannabis, and cocaine and opium derivatives has risen sharply. Half the population under the age of 30 has used or is using illegal drugs.

Here, in other words, is a law that has failed. It is a dud law, an unenforceable law, a counterproductive law, an instance of how bad politicians are at what they claim is their chief job, passing legislation. Yet a dud law on food safety, or dangerous pets, or drunk driving, might be changed. The Misuse of Drugs Act seems impervious to amendment or repeal. It contains a repelling magnet.

To the Tories, the Act was as sacred as the Act of Union. On this subject, they were the irrational in flight from the undebatable. Many hoped that a new Labour Government would prove more open-minded. I would guess that half the present Cabinet privately agrees with Clare Short in wanting to drop some of the Act's "dead letters", such as on cannabis possession. I would even hazard Tony Blair's name on that list. Yet the new Home Office Ministers are as dead in the wool as the old ones. As heard George Howarth's voice tremble on radio when asked to review the Act. No, he gasped. His colleague Alan Michael protested that even using the phrase royal commission was anathema. It might "send wrong signals" or "be misunderstood".

The result is a startling divide in social policy, between an older generation which believes a social law is far too weak and a younger one which (by two-to-one, according to polls) believes the precise reverse. This is the polarisation that faces the committee set up this week

by the Police Foundation under Viscountess Runciman. Clearly, what politicians are too frightened to discuss, others must discuss for them.

The polarisation is now extreme and growing wider. Few heroin users before the 1971 Act were criminals or social outcasts. Their drug was available on prescription. Heroin addiction is now said to be responsible for 20 per cent of all crime recorded by police. For the first time in history a drug supposedly outlawed to curb its use is adding an ever-widening circle of young people. Meanwhile, magistrates are locking up otherwise law-abiding sellers of cannabis for seven years. Prisoners now have the highest drug consumption per capita of any occupational group in Britain. The Home Office is unable to stop its prisons becoming the hottest dope houses in the land. Yet it believes it can ban drug use in the outside world.

This is close to madness. On one side of the argument are those who believe that "one more push" under the Misuse of Drugs Act might work. They insist that the list of substances that already damage people's bodies is long enough. All drugs are 'hell'. The only way the community can condemn that hell is through the criminal law. Traffickers should incur society's most savage punishment. Alcohol and tobacco are integrated into our social habits. Were they not, we would ban them too, and in the case of tobacco we are in the process of doing just that.

These people see their case reinforced by ever more evidence of the enhanced narcotic effects of even "recreational" drugs. Modern chemicals are of unknown effect. Recent research on Ecstasy in America suggests that the damage it does to brain cells may shorten the brain's life. We are possibly producing a

generation of young people prone to early senile dementia. By all means research, educate and practise "harm reduction", say the prohibitionists. But never legitimise.

Two increasingly distinct groups oppose the prohibitionists, one ideological, the other pragmatic. The ideologues share with classical libertarians the view that the State should not interfere with individual liberty except to protect minors or maintain order. They claim it is absurd that adults smoking cannabis, students taking Ecstasy, or rock stars sniffing cocaine need to be protected

from themselves by other adults who dislike these products and can deploy the criminal law against them. Such products are in the same ethical realm as alcohol and nicotine. Narcotics are as old as human society. Prohibition merely legitimises the prejudice of one group and intrudes on the personal freedom of another. In this spirit, the financier George Soros yesterday donated \$15 million to fight America's draconian drugs laws.

The pragmatists are down-to-earth. To them, prohibition simply does not work. It is like using cavalry against tanks. The trumpet blast is noble but the war has passed on. As the Chief Constable of Bedfordshire, Michael O'Byrne, said last week, either Govern-

ment should hurl far more money at crushing drug distribution, or the police must be relieved of this burden. The present law can be enforced only at random, which means ineffectively and corruptly. Every newspaper reader knows how prevalent the drugs distribution business now is in Britain and across the globe. City centres, housing estates, market towns, pubs and clubs are in thrall to this hugely profitable (because unregulated and untaxed) industry. It ranks with the oil industry for global turnover. It has far outstripped all other criminal activity and is believed to finance a quarter of the world's governments and as many of its police forces. The outlawing of narcotics banned by the West probably causes more violence and misery across the world than anything short of war itself.

When the Customs and Excise declared its "best ever" year for drug seizures, it merely announced the best year for drug trading. This is senseless market intervention. I doubt if the Government seizes even 1 per cent of what enters Britain each year. Like the US Navy, which spends \$2 billion trying to "interdict" drug-running in the Caribbean, such operations have a marginal effect on street prices. Indeed, one of the most cogent (if cynical) arguments for maintaining prohibition is that the drugs trade channels money free of tax to communities that legitimate commerce is unlikely to reach — from the poor of Colombia to the Afro-Caribbean distribution networks of South London.

Last week I saw drugs openly sold on the streets of Edinburgh during the festival. Tons of cannabis, Ecstasy and cocaine would have been traded at the Notting Hill Carnival, under the nose of the carousing leader of the Conservative

Party. Nobody can visit council estates in Moss Side, Leeds or Newcastle, where drugs are now the cheapest pastime and most buoyant trade, and regard the Misuse of Drugs Act as operational. Police officers and social workers are the ultimate "redrafters" of bad laws. To them drugs are not as seen by middle-aged and suburban voters, an alien menace to be repelled by the criminal law. They are a fact of everyday life, dangerous because unregulated, cheap because untaxed, corrupting because distributed by unlicensed cartels.

This debate reaches deep into the cultural psyche. The most common and most widely debilitating drug on earth, alcohol, is something Britons believe they have learnt to "handle". Anyone who walks the streets at night, or visits a police cell or casualty ward, knows that this is untrue. Yet we call a bottle of whisky "safe" and a joint of marijuana a potential killer. We have succeeded, with public consent, to control alcohol's ability to turn car drivers into killers. Yet the drugs preferred by the young and many immigrant groups are greeted with an irrational horror.

None of this validates legalisation. It does plead for a review of the Act. The difficulty is that the present coalition of policemen, social and health workers, two thirds of voters under 25, and a myriad others who use, sell or tolerate illicit drugs does not constitute a majority. In a democracy, majorities must be obeyed, however closed their minds.

What is depressing about the present debate is that an industry with an astonishing power to penetrate every aspect of the social economy is still political anathema. Another committee is unlikely to change minds. My hope is that this one at least might start to open them.

The author is a member of the new committee of inquiry

Simon Jenkins

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Net loss

A DEARTH of salmon in the River Dee has forced the Prince of Wales to forgo his Balmoral fishing trips for the first time since he took up angling as a boy.

Since 1964, the Prince has supported the Dee Salmon Fishery Board's attempts to increase the river's salmon stock, which has been blighted by a combination of industrial fishing of the salmon's food supply and drought. After attending several board meetings, he backed its plans to shorten the

season by a month and — the test of the true sportsman — agreed to throw back his catch.

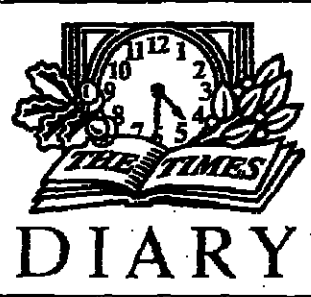
This year, however, the river has been so empty of fish that the Prince has not picked up a rod and has diverted his attention to the grouse-moors, pausing on the banks of the river long enough only to attend an official photocall two weeks ago with his sons, William and Harry.

"He has been put off by the miserable stock this summer," says Colonel Robert Campbell, former chairman of the fishery board. "The spring run was disastrous, and Prince Charles didn't fish in May this year."

So scarce have salmon become across Scotland — the annual catch is down to fewer than 7,000 from more than 100,000 thirty years ago — that the Prince has recently turned to fishing grise in Iceland, which he has visited several times with his friend Nicholas Soames. Fish supplies in the Denmark Straits, however, may soon be as meagre as those in the Dee. "Grise stock off Iceland are at an all-time low," says Campbell. "Soon there won't be much left to catch there either."



Gone fishin': Charles and son



● Button to the recent sets of grainy snapshots of Diana and Dodi by the big bucks of other tabloids, the cash-strapped Daily Star has taken to printing even duller pictures of the Princess and abandoning any attempt to pretend they are of the remotest interest to anybody. Monday's picture was below the headline: "Another picture of Diana." Yesterday's was captioned: "Here's a picture of Di sitting on a diving board yesterday. Fascinating."

House rule

JAMES BROWN, the uncouth former editor of the rubbishy magazine *Loaded*, has made an instant smash at Vogue House, where he has arrived to take the editor's chair at GQ. But the importance of lunch in his strategy has not been

an unqualified success. After a particularly lively lunch "meeting", Brown appears to have taken exception to a bottle of wine he found back in his office and thrown it out of the window. That the window was closed added to the effect.

There then followed another convivial outing with the magazine's publisher, Peter Stuart. Later, the two were hauled upstairs by a senior executive and informed that they were banned from lunching together for six months. After heated negotiation it was agreed that such a demand smacked of separation.

rating naughty schoolboys in the classroom and was an unacceptable way to treat adults. The ban was reduced to a month.

Racey

THERE is good news on the romantic front for the Duke of Richmond and Gordon. His Grace, who had a rough time three years ago in the wake of revelations of his hot-blooded affair with a travel agent, is celebrating the engagement of Louise, his youngest daughter, Louise, 30, is to marry Benjamin Collings, 23, who restores and races vintage cars.

They met two years ago at the Goodwood Festival of Speed. Racing of one kind or another has gone hand in hand with romance throughout the history of the Richmond dynasty, even before the family owned Goodwood. The 1st Duke was conceived between races at Newmarket when Charles II, an assiduous student of the female form, took a tumble with Louise de Keroualle, a lady-in-waiting to his sister Henrietta.

Outcasts

Britain's oldest annual music event, the Three Choirs Festival in Hereford, ended on a discordant

note. At the end of the three-day festival its organiser, one Elizabeth Pooley, found herself barred from the last night party by an overzealous doorman.

Rolling up at the Festival Club, in Hereford Shire Hall, with her husband, she was refused entry because she did not have a ticket. She explained who she was but the meat-head on the door still said no. He had his orders, no one could come in without a ticket. Friends and fellow organisers spotted Mrs Pooley and pleaded with the bouncer, but he was having none of it and the couple stayed in the rain until giving up and heading home.

No kidding?

WHILE Diana, Princess of Wales, is sunning herself on her fourth cruise in five weeks, her mother, Frances Shand Kydd, has been immersing herself in the mire of Scottish politics. After pondering long on the devolution debate she is burning with patriotism that Robert the Bruce would have been proud of.

Mrs Shand Kydd, who caused a stir at the general election when she said she would not be voting Conservative because of John Major's treatment of Scottish fishermen, is busily urging everyone eligible to vote in the referendum. "I have



All Scots: Mrs Shand Kydd

made up my mind how I am going to vote, but I am not disclosing it," she says from her home on the Isle of Seil. "It is about a question of balance — balancing people's aspirations with the prospect of levying additional taxation. I love Scotland. It is my home and the most wonderful place in the world with the greatest people. I have got no English blood in me, despite what some people think."

P.H.S

Man stalks pop fans with syringe

Settled profits

Rapist returns

Law hits price

Lapper happens

Near the know

Camera obscura

CONNECT

market strong



THE NEXT MRS ROBINSON

Ireland needs political reform and a modern President

For a state taking its place among Europe's first rank it has been an uncomfortable exorcism. The most important living Irish political figure has been revealed as a corrupt and mendacious hypocrite bought by a wealthy shopkeeper. One of the most charismatic of his opponents has been exposed as a kept man "consistently benefiting from the black economy". The report of the McCracken Tribunal into the activities of former Fianna Fail leader Charles Haughey and the disgraced Fine Gael minister Michael Lowry paints a pitilessly depressing picture of corruption at the highest level in the Irish Republic.

In British terms, it is as though Margaret Thatcher and Denis Healey were revealed to have enriched themselves in office as the puppet hirelings of Lord Siff of Brimpton and then took care to hide their benefactor's generosity from the Revenue. Ireland can console itself that it has a judiciary capable of slicing through politicians' prevarication to uncover the corruption beneath; but vital as Mr Justice McCracken's work has been, the stables are not yet cleansed.

In comparison with sleaze on the eastern side of the Irish Sea, whether in Tatton or Paisley, the scale of wrongdoing is breathtaking. Charles Haughey's enormous wealth, his Georgian mansion, his island hideaway accessible only by helicopter, his racehorses and cellar were not the fruits of honest labour on the path to the Taoiseach's office but the spoils of a clandestine relationship with the supermarket owner Ben Dunne. When Mr Haughey was challenged about the £1.3 million he received covertly from Mr Dunne he lied repeatedly, on oath, until his fictions were shattered by solid detective work. Mr Lowry may have received less financially but the sums the Fine Gael minister accepted were nevertheless compromising and, worse, led him to

"cynically evade" his responsibilities to the Revenue Commissioners. Both men will now have to settle their accounts with the Irish people and make proper recompense for their wrongdoing; but the consequences of their actions require more than a personal confession.

As the leader of the Irish Labour Party, Dick Spring, has pointed out, the level of corruption exposed proves how sorely the state's political system requires reform. Mr Spring's party has proposed constitutional changes to make government more open which could be put to the Irish people this autumn at the same time as the presidential election. That election will, in any case, be a test for the Republic. If John Hume does not stand, and for the sake of the Northern Ireland peace process he should not, then the most likely victor looks to be Albert Reynolds. A victory for Mr Reynolds would be a backward step for Ireland.

Mr Reynolds's aggressive nationalism is reason enough for concern but his faults are not just ideological. The circumstances of Mr Reynolds's fall from office in 1994, when he lost the confidence of his Labour coalition partners, still sour Irish politics. The beef export scandals of the late 1980s and early 1990s are likely to come under renewed scrutiny this autumn. There are other questions which will be raised if he runs.

The ghosts of the past have always stalked Irish politics: it was a scandal thought long buried which did for the last Fianna Fail presidential candidate, Brian Lenihan. His loss was Ireland's gain. The victor in that race, Mary Robinson, was the standard-bearer for a more modern and open Ireland. If the benefits she has brought to Irish political culture are to be built on, including a sympathetic understanding of Unionist concerns, then a figure to match her must be found. None has yet appeared.

WHITEHALL RUMBLING

Political plasticine and Caribbean craters

The freshly constituted Whitehall committee on Montserrat has met and has reported to Robin Cook. The Foreign Secretary has told the waiting world that he and the Cabinet "fully support the plan put together by my colleague Clare Short to ensure that the people of Montserrat have choices". All that remains is to finalise "an implementation strategy", and "Clare and I will continue to work with the new chief minister... in this difficult and changing situation".

This is next to meaningless. Were there a coherent plan ready to be implemented, damage limitation would not have been needed. How does the Government propose to "continue to work" with David Brandt, Montserrat's new Chief Minister, when relations are in tatters and when his demands for better treatment by Britain are echoing across the Caribbean? There is apparently to be no new offer, no added security for people who have lost everything, only a reordering of "priorities" — and a "listening visit" by a junior minister, George Foulkes, which in the absence of a rethink will merely waste aviation fuel.

Mr Cook has now departed on a trip to Asia, presumably confident that a bit of news management will satisfy the British public that all was really under control all along — or at least hopeful that bromides will suffice to buy the Government, if not the islanders, time for public concern to subside. The Foreign Secretary's political antennae are not normally so insensitive.

Mr Cook's statement recalls John Major at his most ineffective, in the moments when he allowed misplaced loyalty to errant colleagues to warp his political judgment. If this committee had any purpose, it was surely to rescue Britain's reputation for competent and fair dealing, rather than that

of a rattled minister whose mishandling of Montserrat's agony has needlessly complicated a perfectly compassable humanitarian emergency. The recocking of half-baked remedies will solve nothing.

To continue to insist on Ms Short's leading role in this matter is the more perverse because, regardless of her performance, this should never have been a matter for her department. Montserrat should not come under the umbrella of International Development. Britain has a choice about which foreign countries it assists, but an ineluctable duty to its dependent territories. Their problems are a domestic matter, their crises more appropriately dealt with under the contingency reserves than under the straitened aid budget. Ms Short may well agonise that money for Montserrat means less for desperately poor Africans; she should not have been required to weigh apples against oranges. No wonder policy has been reactive, inept and confused.

Vulcanology is, at best, a balance of probabilities. For Montserrat itself, the Government cannot be certain what the future holds. If Soufriere returns to its long sleep, areas now uninhabitable could be fertile again in a few years. If it does not, the island may never be economically viable. It is therefore reasonable to put long-term plans for Montserrat on hold. What is not reasonable is to give the islanders such meagre assistance to settle, temporarily or permanently, on neighbouring islands that their only realistic hope of financial security is to come to Britain. Although the Government was lamentably slow to set up this committee, there is nothing wrong with its agenda. But it cannot function properly until ministers stop pretending that their only problem is public relations.

MARTYR TO THE MARKET

The strange metamorphosis of Che Guevara

The year's most bizarre CD is an album called *Hasta Siempre Comandante*, on which Fidel Castro reads the last letters of his erstwhile comrade-in-revolution, Ernesto "Che" Guevara. To be released in October by the British company, Tumi Music, the album marks the 30th anniversary of the 39-year-old Guevara's execution by Bolivian soldiers. It is not too hard to see why Cuba's President agreed to the project: Guevara's letters — written to him in 1965, after the charismatic Argentinean had left Cuba to spread the revolution through South America — are nothing if not fawning.

"My only serious failing," Guevara writes, "was not having had more confidence in you... seldom has a statesman been more brilliant." And so on, somewhat cloyingly, until Guevara signs off with a typically melodramatic "*Hasta la victoria siempre! Patria o muerte!*" (Onward to victory! Homeland or death!) and hastens on to the martyrdom he craved.

Students of ripe irony will find plenty to savour. The Castro who fervently declaims Guevara's zealous Marxist epistles is now, according to *Forbes* magazine, one of the world's richest men, worth an estimated \$1.3 billion. The revolution has turned out nicely for him, if not for many of his countrymen. But then, Guevara's ghost is a nice little money-spinner too. The global Guevara cult was nurtured by hagiographic posters in a million student lodgings in the late Sixties, reinforced by dozens of appear-

ances by Guevara figures in books, films and even musicals; who can forget the all-singing Che in *Evita*?

It still flourishes in a world that has largely consigned Guevara's Utopian communism to the dustbin. This anniversary year has already seen a big new biography and an album of songs inspired by Guevara and endorsed by his daughter. But the most determined efforts to exploit Guevara's name have come since the grim discovery last month of what are probably his remains, a corpse with no hands, in southern Bolivia. Castro, who is reputed to have the hands preserved in a jar in his office, has already claimed the rest of Guevara's bones, to be housed in a grandiose mausoleum in Cuba, a lurid new attraction for tourists.

Meanwhile, Bolivia — the very state which Guevara was trying to bring down when he was killed — has announced that it is opening a 500-mile "Che Trail", along which admirers can retrace the guerrilla's battles. The scheme has nothing to do with reconciliation and everything to do with the tourist trade. The man who set out to bury capitalism is now metamorphosed into a chic designer label that will sell almost anything. The revolutionary and his ludicrous message are long dead, but the icon lives on, courtesy of the very consumerism that he so detested. In Guevara's case, history is being replayed not as farce, but as marketing. Buy your souvenir beret now,

Human rights and judges' powers

From Mr Andrew Puddephatt, Director of Charters

Sir, Geoffrey Marshall, Provost of The Queen's College, Oxford (letter, August 18), glosses over some of the real difficulties in allowing courts to invalidate laws that judges believe are inconsistent with a Bill of Rights. The Government's proposal to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law changes the relationship between Parliament and the courts. It is important, therefore, to consider which method of protecting rights is most appropriate in our democracy.

This is not a question of adopting the New Zealand, or Canadian, or Swedish model; we need a "British" model, which makes the most effective use of our political system.

Some elements of a Bill of Rights are uncontroversial. Others such as the right to freedom of expression or the right to privacy, involve delicate political and moral judgments. Indeed, many of the most difficult problems facing our society involve a conflict of rights rather than the simple expression of a single right.

If we take Geoffrey Marshall's view, such conflicts must, by virtue of "common sense", be decided by judges. In the absence of any sustained public debate it is far from clear that public opinion is ready for judges, who by their very nature must be unaccountable, to make such important, often moral decisions.

Judges would be required to take highly political decisions where there is no clear "human rights" view — considering, for example, whether the ban on tobacco advertising contravenes the right to freedom of expression or whether proposals to establish a sex-offenders register breach a constitutional right to privacy. Such changes to their role could lead to inexorable political pressures on the judiciary, with every judgment and even their appointment the subject of intense lobbying.

Geoffrey Marshall might recall that in the case of the New Zealand Bill of Rights, which he dismisses so readily, Parliament's original intention was to allow courts to strike down laws which were in breach of the Bill. However, during the consultation process public opinion proved itself to be fiercely opposed to judges being given such a power — and this led to their current model being adopted.

I would suggest that before we give judges such power we consult more widely to assess public opinion in this country.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW PUDDEPHATT,
Director,
Charter88,
Exmouth House, 3-11 Pine Street, EC1,
August 23.

From Professor Emeritus T. F. Daveney

Sir, Geoffrey Marshall is less than just to the New Zealand model of human rights legislation. Many, perhaps most, of the claims submitted to Strasbourg are founded on the principle of equality, eg. the age of consent for homosexual practices vis-à-vis heterosexual activity; females in the fighting arms of the Forces; equality of access to shops and public transport by the disabled, etc.

Many of these demands are, in our culture, considered justified and reasonable. But it is easy to think of endless equality claims which would be dismissed as unreasonable, or even absurd, eg. equality of housing, income, pensions, holidays. This clearly indicates that the principle of equality, so far from being a final justification for a judgment, is merely the beginning of the debate.

What criteria, then, are evoked to judge the reasonableness of a claim for equality? The answer is obvious: cultural values. But whose? The New Zealanders, ever shrewd, say "Ours, based on Common Law, shared history, and a strong sense of community". And that should be our answer.

Would Strasbourg know better? Have they privileged access to a Platonic world of eternal values? The Government would do well to include an analytical philosopher in their human rights committee.

Yours faithfully,
TOM DAVENEY,
4 Ferry Road,
Topsam, Exeter, Devon,
August 18.

Hindley's picture

From Miss Claire Louise Watson

Sir, Jerome Gardner (letters, August 21; see also letter, August 25) is right to remind us that the elevation of Myra Hindley's photo to a portrait (article, August 18) is against the wishes of the Moors victims' families. Bearing in mind these victims, however, does Mr Gardner not think that the use of "a scary police mug shot" is in fact justifiable and hardly an infringement of Myra Hindley's human rights?

The Royal Academy should ban the portrait because there is nothing artistic about the police mug shot of a murderer, not in deference to the "helpless situation" of Myra Hindley.

Yours faithfully,
CLAIRE WATSON,
Boite 53,
10 Rue du Moulin de la Vierge,
75014 Paris,
August 25.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

A little wildness is a lovesome thing

From the Chairman of the Society of Garden Designers

Sir, May I add to Michael Hornsby's comments on the trend towards less formal gardening ("Shaggy look is cutting edge of fashion", August 21).

What the conservationist is trying to suggest to the horticulturalist is that there might be a middle way in gardening. With a diminishing wild landscape there must be a method of land management which is not the restrictive horticultural practice that we have inherited from the Edwardian era; and need the criteria of a garden be the number of exotic plants which we can cram into it anyway?

Our native trees, shrubs and wild flowers are magnificent, and used selectively, with appropriate introduced species, can combine to grow in

a much looser way than in the cultivated border to provide both colour and form as well as a natural habitat.

This approach, I would like to suggest, is more important than the "fashion" suggested by your title. Our land and our landscape should not be trivialised in this way.

Wild plants cannot be allowed to develop at random, however, particularly in the limited space of a small garden. Underlying the planting has to be a design concept to make the garden work both physically as well as visually for the people who use it.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BROOKES, Chairman,
Society of Garden Designers,
Clock House, Denmans,
Fontwell, nr Arundel, West Sussex,
August 21.

Around London by Tube and train

From Mr Nicholas Albery

Sir, As someone who lived for six years near Kilburn without realising I could go direct by train to Kew Gardens, I was very struck by the new map of London's passenger rail network, both trains and Tubes (report, August 18).

How badly advertised London's mainline and suburban trains are. Surely the simplest and cheapest first steps towards upgrading public transport for the region would be:

To publicise a name, such as London Passenger Rail Network, bringing Tubes and trains together.

To give map colours (the single most important factor) to all the participating rail lines.

To display the resulting maps of the network's trains and Tubes on Tube trains and at Tube stations.

To increase train frequencies to Tube frequencies as train passenger numbers increase.

There are signs of this happening in embryonic ways already, but it needs systematic development into a seamless network. It could be financed in part by London Underground charging those companies wishing to participate for the advertising facilities.

NICHOLAS ALBERY (Chairman),
The Institute for Social Inventions,
20 Heber Road, NW2,
August 18.

Teenage pregnancy

From Mr Ian C. Boulton

Sir, I take issue with Mrs Victoria Gillick's assertion (letter, August 20) that "ten years of 'safe-sex' education, and a doubling of the use of contraceptives by adolescents... has only succeeded in sexualising younger and younger children". While the largely mythical innocence of youth may be somewhat curtailed by "safe-sex" education, I suggest that this is a minute price to pay for the continued health and safety of our children.

Awareness of HIV and Aids is essential for all sections of the population irrespective of sex, sexuality or age.

Yours sincerely,
IAN C. BOULTON,
Department of Biochemistry
and Molecular Biology,
Guys' and St Thomas' Hospital,
London, SE1 9RT,
i.boulton@umds.ac.uk

From the Director of Family and Youth Concern

Sir, The underlying assumption in the letters (August 14) seems to be that

Head lice

From Dr Robert Aston

Sir, I am intrigued by the suggestion that head lice might be causing panic in the House of Commons (article, Weekend, August 2 letters, August 8), since they are spread by intimate, prolonged, still, head-to-head contact.

Head-lice infection in this country has no physical health implications other than an itchy scalp, but the associated disgust and stigma cause disproportionate reactions.

One of your correspondents, Dr Honor Merriman, recommends the physical removal of lice by the "bug busting" method — wet combing with a nit comb. This has not been shown to be effective in the control of the problem in communities by any authoritative research.

Whilst I support another correspondent in not wanting to see the school health service reduced, reinventing the "nit nurse" would do nothing to reduce the prevalence of lice and would waste the time and skills of the school nurses. Head lice can only be

controlled if the community as a whole accepts responsibility and takes concerted appropriate action.

The only demonstrably effective way of controlling head lice in the community is diagnosis by detection-combing, followed by adequate chemical treatment of confirmed cases, and of close contacts if infected. Treatment should not be given unless a living, moving louse is found.

In each health authority, the responsible officer for the control of infectious diseases is the consultant in communicable disease control (CCDC). The national professional organisation of CCDCs will shortly be producing a statement on head lice and their control. I suggest that all those who have a professional interest in the subject seek advice from their local CCDC.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT ASTON
(Member, Head Lice Working Group of the Public Health Medicine Environmental Health Group),
Stoneygate,
Foxholes Road, Horwich, Lancashire.

From Mrs M. Alison Joiner

Sir, If A-level standards have not fallen, why do I find myself able to teach so much of the present A-level physics syllabus from old O-level textbooks?

Yours faithfully,
M. ALISON JOINER,
15 Dale Avenue,
Wheatthorpe, Hertfordshire,
August 14.

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Waste charge over new Army college

From Brigadier P. E. Collins (ret'd)

Sir, The Defence Minister can save the best part of £500 million by insisting on putting to proper use the now empty Army Staff College with all its infrastructure, lecture halls, married quarters and sporting facilities (all in an existing secure environment) as the Joint Services Staff College instead of covering a new greenfield site in Swindon with concrete.

One of the reasons given for not using this historic building, which is of international military importance, is that it would supposedly damage the panelling to install the necessary computer equipment in the lecture rooms. This has to be challenged. With fibre-optic cable and the present state-of-the-art in corporate networks, every lavatory and every married quarter, as well as all the lecture rooms, could be discreetly equipped with computer terminals for a tiny fraction of the cost of a new building.

Yours sincerely,
PETER COLLINS,
The Maultway, Camberley, Surrey,
August 24.

Cover slips

From the Reverend William Greatrex

Sir, Now that women cricketers have recognised that efficiency takes priority over "appearance" (report, August 10), is it not time for those who authorise working dress for female nurses, police, and members of the defence forces to exercise similar common sense?

Trousers offer maximum efficiency in carrying out the duties involved in these public services. Skirts could, of course, be retained for ceremonial occasions.

Yours truly,
WARREN GREATREX,
The Highlands, Great Ormond,
Symonds Yat, Herefordshire,
August 16.

A natural streak

From Mr Jad Adams

Sir, It may well be true, as Dr Strutt writes (August 20), that Waardenburg's syndrome can account for white streaks of hair occurring spontaneously.

It would not be accurate to conclude, however, that Indira Gandhi's characteristic white streak is thus explained. Her black hair began to go grey when she was in her 40s. She dyed most of it back to its previous colour, leaving a central streak of hair in its natural state which was first grey, then white.

Yours faithfully,
JAD ADAMS
(Joint author, *The Dynasty: The Nehru-Gandhi Story*, Penguin, 1997),
2 Kings Garth,
29 London Road, SE23,
August 20.

Small change

From Mr T. G. Barker

Sir, My wife and I recently drove to Venice on holiday. Our money wallet is still bursting at the seams with loose change for the franc (all three varieties — French, Belgian and Luxembourg), the mark, the Austrian schilling and the Italian lira.

Roll on the single currency!

Yours faithfully,
T. G. BARKER,
116 Shinfield Road,
Reading, Berkshire.

Total confusion

From Richard Raven

Sir, I know I have been on my school holiday for six weeks, but I am sure I still know how to add up. I wasn't convinced, however, when I read the preliminary medals table of The World Sports Olympiad, where the world's most powerful minds compete (Keene on Chess, August 22). I found that England's 3 plus 5 plus 5 equalled 11. I was sure it equalled 13. Maybe I am wrong?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD RAVEN
(Age 13 — or maybe 11. I'm not sure),
6 Seymour Road,
East Molesey, Surrey,
August 22.

Really, really...

From Mr Henry Fleming

Sir, Browsing through my copy of the Honiton Community Education Programme for 1997-98, and wondering whether at 67 years I am too old for courses such as "Welding for Beginners" or "The Foundation in Shiatsu", I found the answer.

There it was, staring me in the face. A "Spice Girls Study Course", to explore their image, lyrics and profundity, with the benefit of a certificate on successful completion.

My teenager daughter thinks not, and suggests the "Honiton Lace-making Course" as an alternative, but I remain to be convinced.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY FLEMING,
April Cottage, Bramble Hill,
Exeter Road, Honiton, Devon,
August 24.

News reports are called 'stories' for good reason

TV is a medium where every edit is a lie

Once upon a time... But that's not how you ought to begin a report of a cultural-industrial conference, is it? Oh, yes it is. One word dominated this year's Edinburgh International Television Festival. Wherever you stuck your head, the word "narrative" floated forth. Television, it seems, is a matter of telling stories and of imposing on the most abstruse subject a beginning, a middle and an end.

"It's easier to sustain an unfolding narrative over 30 minutes than 30," said Stephen Lambert, editor of BBC's *Modern Times*. Charles Fumeaux, Channel 4's deputy commissioning editor (documentaries), talked of the importance of selecting the dramatically revealing moment from the subject at hand. John Lynch, editor of BBC's *Horizon*, described the award-winning programme's approach: "We don't do white-coated interviews with rows of bookshelves behind. We tell stories."

There were more of the same, all emerging without apparent collusion. Steve Boulton of Granada described his *World in Action* as "narrative analysis". Steve Hewlett, of the BBC's *Panorama*, said: "The way you tell them is at least as important as what you tell them." And from the very top, in the Worldview Address by Bob Phillips, deputy director-general of the BBC, the universal truth: "People want to be caught up in a narrative... and do not want to be asked to vote on how the story turns out."

Sounds easy enough, if a bit infantilising. But it is not. Narrative in non-fiction programmes takes television producers deep into the moral maze. How tempted are they to bend the truth to fit the story? And how tempted are ordinary mortals to play up for television? In fly-on-the-wall documentaries the blazing row blazes up much hotter when the camera is there.

Saturday's session (called "15 Minutes of Shame") — about television desperadoes, people who will do anything to get on television — turned into one of those breath-stopping, career-endangering moments that make the annual late August trek to the grumpy festival worth it. A bald Cockney-accented creature called (so he said) David Smith told how he had twice hoaxed the BBC's morning *Kilroy* show by having an outrageously dramatic story to tell. Explaining the floppy looks he was wearing while grinning and groaning through his supposed experiences for a sympathetic-looking *Kilroy*, he said proudly: "That was wigs from the BBC make-up department."

Dave added: "I said 'I'm a born-again Christian — you got to protect my identity.' He urged others to become television

hoaxers like himself, explaining, from his now-extensive knowledge of the life of television researchers: "They're working under pressure. You offer a good story, and play hard to get. They'll say 'Dave, Dave. You've got to come on my programme!'"

But Dave's confession was not the show-stopping moment. That came when the young television professionals on the panel allowed that, yes, it was true that under pressure some of the guests on a programme may not be authentic, but what was more important was that "there was emotional truth there". David was "a fab booking". Besides, his *Kilroy* hoax was a victimless crime. Indeed, you could say "television is a medium where every edit is a lie".

Idealists in the audience then shrieked. This was outright lying! It was a violation of the basic pact that journalism has with the public.

Why was I, a believer in accuracy so far as humanly possible, not more offended? Because I was not surprised. All narrative, as far as I can see, is a lie. Imposing a beginning, middle and end on the chaos and cruelty of events that have no beginning, middle or end is always a distortion of reality. In conversation, in biography, in history. Any quotation is false because it is a sentence or two taken out of context. Every essay tries to mislead, by assembling arguments in such a way as to emphasise one point and obscure others. And news stories are called "stories" for good reason. If they are not made interesting, no one will read or listen.

I was far more shocked by the admission in the festival session on science programmes that a scientist shown making a phone call in a clip from a Channel 4 science documentary was not really making the call but merely re-enacting for the camera one he had made earlier.

Television does have a far tougher time than the print media because it has to fight to hold its audience from minute to minute. Newspapers and magazines are put together in the knowledge that people will skip over what doesn't interest them and find what does. Explaining foreign news and scientific developments on TV must be the hardest kind of journalism there is. The BBC's world editor, John Simpson, a man who does it very well, mentioned how American networks left the Croats out of the messy Bosnian war story. The assumption was that the American public could not grasp a conflict that had more than two sides.

So let's mute the enthusiasm for "a good story". Narrative is all very well. But nobody should pretend that it does not carry a price.



BRENDA MADDOX

Mean Street revisited



Stan Ogden was a serial adulterer and occasionally beat his wife, Hilda



The Battersbys are the thieving, ghetto-blower-owning neighbours from hell

The Battersbys are merely the Ogdens of the Nineties, argues Carol Midgley

In a recent poll for ITV's *Teletext*, 97 per cent of *Coronation Street* viewers said the new Battersby family should be written out. The fact that 15,250 people bothered to respond to the survey shows the depth of traditional *Street* viewers' loathing for the thieving, ghetto-blower-owning neighbours from hell and their delinquent teenage daughters.

Brian Park, the producer who arrived in January and went through the cast list like a dose of salts, has received sacks of hate mail about his moves to modernise one of our national treasures. Gritty realism is all very well, they say, but *Coronation Street* is meant to be a television oasis of old-fashioned charm in a grim world of adultery, crime and teenage pregnancy. Thousands of viewers have deserted — at a residential home in Blackpool, pensioners have boycotted the show, calling for an end to Les and Janice Battersby and a return to more genteel storylines.

The Broadcasting Standards Commission is also investigating complaints about violence over a recent scene in which Les Battersby head-butted Curly Watts.

Is it hard to conceive then that, 33 years ago, the same argument was raging over *Coronation Street*? Tim Aspinall, the new producer, had arrived with a mission to bring in new characters who would inject "realism" into the show. Martha Longhurst was killed off. There was national uproar.

At the Edinburgh International Television Festival, Park and his team defended the Battersbys, saying they were little different from the Ogdens, the original troublesome family, in the Sixties. Many viewers, he said, had "selective memories" about the *Street* of yesteryear and may have romanticised characters.

Stan Ogden, after all, was a serial adulterer, violent brawler and occasional wife-beater. Yet he is fondly remembered today as the lazy yet loveable window cleaner nagged by his wife and whose only vice was spending too much time in the Rovers Return.

Park showed clips from 1966, in which Hilda cheerfully admits her husband hits her: "If I had a pound for every time Stan's given me crack, I'd be rich." Later, in a line Park said would never be allowed today, she adds: "But it's harmless enough. If you love them, you put up with it, don't you?"

Further footage showed Ogden hitting his grown-up daughter and getting in a violent brawl with Len Fairclough. And let us not forget that the Ogdens' son Trevor was a compulsive thief — when the neighbours were evacuated during a bomb scare, he went from house to house stealing valuables.

Today's scriptwriters say the Battersbys, based on a real-life family who once terrorised a Leicester council estate, were essential to shake the *Street* out of its inertia. Ann

McManus, a script editor, said: "We had become bland in our storytelling. There was so little dramatic conflict, and the ratings declined because of it."

When they introduced the extra-marital affair between garage machanic Kevin Webster and Natalie Horrocks, ratings soared to more than 15 million, taking it ahead of *EastEnders* for some episodes. Although thousands of older viewers have gone, the new storylines seem to have attracted a younger audience.

"It was a cosy atmosphere that pervaded," said Park. "From time to time there is an urge to react against the complacency and go looking for something new."

In 1968, when the audience was protesting at changes, Michael Cox, the outgoing producer, made similar remarks. "We cannot keep the series

going much longer without a totally new element," he told the *Sunday Mirror*. "We're desperate to find storylines we haven't used before [otherwise] the *Street* would degenerate into... a museum."

But even then, he knew change was almost impossible. "Every producer is full of good intentions about restoring some rough, tough realism," he said. "But within three months you find yourself disarmed and sucked in by the cosy atmosphere. Look at the Ogdens."

Sally Wainwright, a scriptwriter, said that the family will expand to include a 19-year-old son who will arrive at Christmas straight from a young offenders' institution. "Les is nasty, potentially dangerous," she said. "I don't want the family to become too palatable. But one day they might be as loved as the Ogdens were."

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Searching for lost youth

Programme makers are desperate to close a television generation gap, says Rajan Datar

William Hague's fiancée caught sampling a Cool Johnny! The news from Notting Hill over the Bank Holiday must have sent stressed picture editors into paroxysms of delight. Sadly the Cool Johnny in question turned out to be a national favourite Carnival cocktail, but the bizarre presence of the Party and his girlfriend among legions of dance-crazed revellers was certainly a publicity coup for the Tories.

Hague's "spontaneous" decision trumped the absent Labour trendies in the cool stakes. Maybe the Labour lot were huffing it up in Edinburgh, where the Television Festival seemed to share a similar obsession with pandering to the youth vote — and about time too. This was a year of change for the TV festival, a deliberate attempt to shift the focus away from the cosy, corporate seediness of hotel lobbies.

From the moment this year's chairman, Stuart Cosgrove, was welcomed to the grove — who has been winding his way through the establishment up since his days at *New Musical Express* and as Channel 4's Controller of Arts Entertainment — has been demonised by the tabloids as a purveyor of porn — got up to introduce the MacTaggart Lecture, you sensed a fresh breeze running through the proceedings. Soul-boy casual and with a desert-dry sense of humour, Cosgrove was clearly intent on injecting an element of subversion into the festival; it was time, he argued, to give the festival back to the programme makers on the ground.

Don't get me wrong, I've been up there with the best of them, popping up the bar in the TV exec's haven that is the George Hotel, but this time there was a clear awareness of the need to address a new generation of younger viewers and programme makers. One delegate even suggested shifting the event to Ibiza, where the hotels are cheaper, the flights cost the same, and the atmosphere is far less stuffy. These are critical times for the television industry. The



Programmers are anxious to find a worthy successor to *This Life*, an unquestionable hit for the BBC this summer

fragmentation of both the medium and the market have spelt the end of an era and the scramble is now on to capture the spirit of a new age of TV watching. Thousands of independent production companies compete to make programmes and a proliferation of channels offers more choice to a new generation of avid button-flickers. Niche-TV has become the buzzword and now it seems only footballers and kiss-and-tell princesses can get us all watching.

News and current affairs people are conducting numerous studies into attracting younger audiences, and every scheduler is desperate to discover the next *This Life*. The BBC managed to run an extended plug for the new Oasis album the day before it was released by calling it a documentary *In Their Own Words* and its new 24-hour news network is currently looking for a popular culture correspondent.

In Edinburgh there was a worthwhile forum on the "Lost Generation" and indeed a whole chunk of the festival was devoted to giving young outsiders an insight and a say about contemporary TV. Some 150 aspiring professionals keen to work in television had their own special sponsored seminars with the likes of the makers of *Brookside*.

There is a real paradox here. A recent survey showed that Media Studies has become the most popular degree course in the country. Young people want to be in telly and on telly, but they don't seem to watch it very much. Meanwhile, jobs are as scarce as ever and there are still woefully few accredited training courses.

One session at the festival lambasted the way broadcast-ers like Channel 5 squeeze budgets so much that impoverished independent production companies now inevitably rely on exploiting young and willing labour in order to survive. At the same time, if this year's MacTaggart lecturers, Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran, have their way and the BBC goes into subscription, the chances are

many young people may opt out of BBC viewing altogether. Perhaps the strongest indictment of the generational gap that still exists in television is our cynicism about using everyday language in programmes. One session in the new Fringe TV festival strand over the weekend discussed swearing on the box and it was clearly the most charged debate I attended.

One panelist referred to a laughable unwritten BBC rule of no more than five F-words an hour (as I am not allowed to use the word in this newspaper I'll follow the artful technique of the writers of *Father Ted* and call it "fack" instead). After the novelty of watching 100 middle-class professionals turning their tongues around some of the most colourful of English words wore off, my mind turned to the issue of power.

Fack, after all, refers to the exhilarating act of making love and it's also a fantastic-sounding word. Why it's so censored I'll never understand. And what of words like "nigger" and "Paki"?

One (black) commissioning editor made the forceful point that while liberal guilt has far greater problems with using this kind of terminology than swear words and it was this taboo that allowed racist language to retain any force in our society. Another delegate argued that gay people have appropriated "queer" and hence the word had stopped being demeaning. The same applies to "nigger" among younger African-Americans. Indeed, I know Asians in this country who call each other



Father Ted actors have the knack of making swearwords seem almost charming

Taking schools to task

Sitting at his desk at *The Daily Telegraph* in August six years ago, with his postbag empty and his news editors hungry for stories during the annual silly season, education editor John Clare started doodling with the A-level results from independent schools — and initiated a revolution in the reporting of education in national newspapers.

As he became increasingly fascinated by what they showed of schools' performances — how Winchester compared with St Paul's or South Hampstead High with Wycombe Abbey — he invented an A-level league table of the top 100 independent schools. The idea was a journalistic masterstroke and instantly controversial. There were winners and losers — and if the main motive for going independent is to ensure the A-level grades that will get sons and daughters to university, the table enabled parents to know if they had spent their money wisely.

Newspaper A-level and GCSE league tables are now studied as closely by school governors as by head teachers and parents. Governors and parents are rating head teachers who are rating their subject teachers. Head teachers know that careers are at stake. Peter Wilkes, Headmaster of Cheltenham, was forced to resign last year by governors who claimed the school was sliding down the A-level table — it has just scored its best ever performance.

One had only to read the papers on Saturday to understand why the elation of some head teachers is matched by

PAPER ROUND
Brian MacArthur

the gloom of others. In over-the-top language, more worthy of *Top of the Pops* or football's Premiership, *The Daily Telegraph* said that Harrow, Oakham, Oundle and Stowe were schools that had "steadily lost position", and St Alban's Girls High and Bradford Grammar had been "on a long slide". So it is important to know what is being measured. Clare bases his table on the proportion of A-level entries achieving A and B grades, but omits schools entering 25-44 candidates from his premier league and four divisions. His table put Haberdashers' Aske's Boys as the top independent school followed by St Paul's Girls and Winton Girls High in Manchester — but put Badminton, which merited fourth place in the premier league (as it was in the *Daily Mail*) into an also-ran column because it was too small.

Yet the top school in *The Times*'s table was Winton, with Haberdashers' Aske's 5th and the top school in *The Guardian* and *The Independent* was Winchester, with Haberdashers' 3rd, With-

ington's 71 girls scored an average of 9.04 compared with the 8.94 of Winchester's boys.

O'Leary was both damned and applauded in yesterday's letters to the editor. Philip Couzens, director of studies at Oundle, 186th in *The Times*, 95th in the *Telegraph*, which encourages a fourth AS level to broaden education, said its score would have been higher if it had stuck to three A levels only: "We are forced to think very carefully about whether we can continue our idiosyncratic approach."

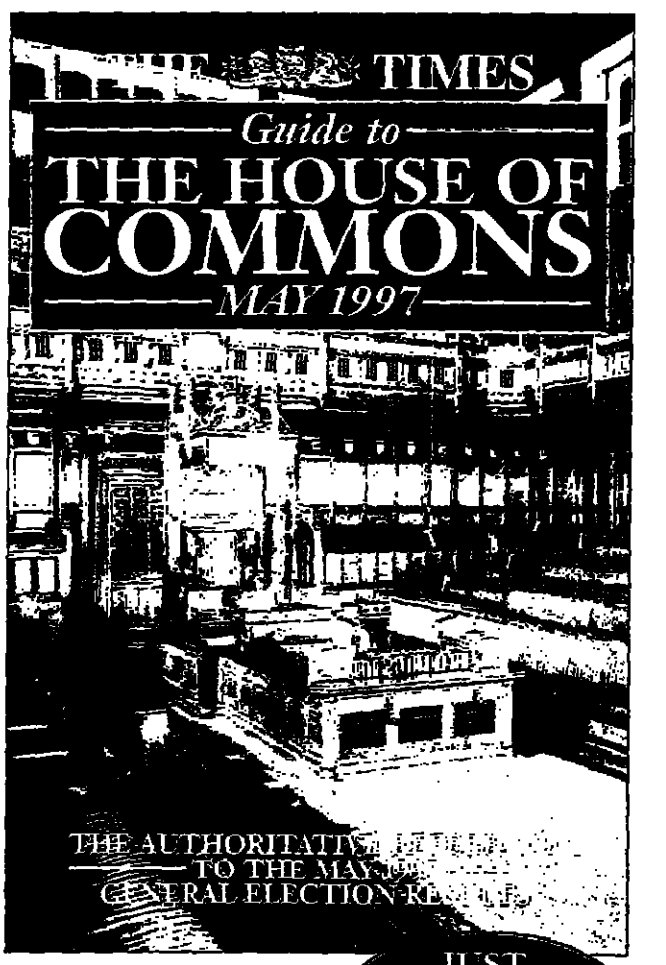
Yet Stewart Francis, headmaster of Colchester Royal Grammar School which improved its position, thought the new *Times* table was fairer: "I would be happier to see a pupil achieve excellence by gaining three A grades in three subjects (30 points, an average of 10 points per subject entry) than near excellence by achieving B grades in four (32 points, an average of 8). The latter score would be of more value in your previous system, the former in your new one."

The Times and *Daily Telegraph* tables have become powerful influences on school choices, certainly in the independent sector, and almost certainly — and perhaps dangerously — on the content of the sixth form curriculum. They are so popular with readers, however, that whatever their critics say they are now a permanent fixture in the education calendar. Independent schools sell themselves to parents and league tables offer them critical information.

They are powerful influences on the choice of a school

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NEWS

Immigration rights for gay partners

The Government is poised to give hundreds of foreign nationals in homosexual relationships with British citizens the right to settle in the UK. The change is also expected to apply to heterosexuals who are not married but are in long-term relationships.

The Home Office has been reviewing regulations applying to homosexuals, lesbians and live-in lovers and an announcement is expected when Parliament returns in October. Page 1

France to tax zealous workers

The French Government is proposing to cut the working week by four hours to 35 hours by July 1, 2000, according to a Labour ministry document leaked yesterday. Anyone working more than 39 hours a week from next year will face tough new taxes as part of an attempt to tackle unemployment. Page 1

Paracetamol curbs

New controls on the sale of paracetamol have been ordered by the Government in an attempt to cut the number of unintended suicides and accidental overdoses involving the drug. Page 1

Teacher murdered

Carole Leach, 37, a British teacher, was murdered on the Bahamian island of Eleuthera where she emigrated six years ago to educate children at the local primary school. Page 1

Blair back in charge

Tony Blair flew back to Britain determined to put his Government back on track. The first sign of his return was a flurry of activity to defuse the compensation row over Montserrat. Page 2

Top shoplifter

Andrew Rickards, of Gloucester, possibly Britain's most prolific shoplifter, admitted 2,300 separate offences and was put on probation for 12 months. Page 3

Classroom fascism

The Government's drive for higher standards of education risks descending into "intellectual fascism", the leader of Britain's top prep schools claimed. Page 4

CS clue to murder

Thomas Marshall, the 12-year-old murdered in Norfolk, may have met his killer through CB radio, police said as his parents appealed for help. Page 5

The Princess has a message for us

Diana, Princess of Wales, thinks she is a "messenger" whose destiny is to help the poor and disadvantaged. In an interview with *Le Monde* she portrayed herself as a dedicated humanitarian campaigner with the common touch who is victimised by the press. But for her children, she said, she would have left Britain years ago. Pages 1, 16

BUSINESS

British Airways: The airline is turning away thousands of pounds in bookings to try to ease pressure on facilities at Heathrow. Page 23

Fashion crisis: Elizabeth Emanuel pleaded for emergency financial backing as her 15-month-old fashion business teetered on the edge of collapse. Page 23

Ferries: Stena Line, the cross channel ferry operator, blamed the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for a deterioration in its commercial position. Page 23

Tobacco: BAT, the tobacco group involved in the latest American damages settlement, must make an initial payment of \$95 million to the state of Florida by September 15. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index fell 14.8 points to close at 4886.3. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 101.7 to 101.6 after a rise from \$1.6060 to \$1.6125 but a fall from DM2.9173 to DM2.9035. Page 26

SPORT

Football: Newcastle United have the formidable task of defending a 2-1 lead when they face Croatia Zagreb in the preliminary round of the European Cup. Page 44

Crickets: The race for the county championship is reaching a conclusion with five teams in with a chance of winning the biggest prize in the game. Page 40

Athletics: An alarming number of British women runners are suffering from anorexia or bulimia, threatening their health and their sporting careers. Page 41

Tennis: Mary Pierce was in impressive form in easily defeating Gigi Fernandez on the second day of the US Open. Page 42

Football: Blackburn Rovers, the 1995 Premiership champions, have started the season in breathtaking fashion. Page 38

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

TRAVEL
Why holidaymakers should boycott Orlando's new airport — and help to save the bald eagle

FILMS
Geoff Brown enjoys the breezy spirit of the British comedy *The Full Monty*



With one breath, model Meghan Heaney-Grier reached 165ft off Florida, an American women's free-diving record

ARTS

Drilled home: When Julian Glover began rehearsals for *Chips with Everything* at the National Theatre, his National Service training stood him in good stead. Page 14

Cocktail hour: T.S. Eliot's 50-year-old "spiritual comedy", *The Cocktail Party*, is revived in Edinburgh with some fine performances but a hole in the middle. Page 14

Rising star: At 20, the violinist Matthew Trusler has been described as an old-fashioned virtuoso — a label that doesn't embarrass him one bit. Page 14

Knights and nuns: Glyndebourne paid its annual visit to the Proms with a hugely enjoyable semi-staged *Count Ory* which underlined the sophistication of Rossini's comic opera. Page 15

Local heroes: Primal Scream have had their thunder stolen umpteenth times but their homecoming gig in Glasgow proved they are the most popular band in town. Page 15

HOME

Gold digs: August is a quiet month at the lower end of the housing market, but for the super-rich it is the time to hunt for fabulous London homes. Page 35

FEATURES

Agent provocateur: The gentle, hippyish style of recent seasons, with its muted colours and flowery details, has been replaced by a self-confident look that is, reports Jane Shilling, provocative in every sense of the word. Page 12

North Briton: Allan Massie, one of Scotland's finest writers, still considers himself British, "the last of a vanishing species, the North Briton". Page 13

Bookworms: Out-of-print book searchers are a curious breed. My grandmother was one and so was I, says Eva Salzman. Page 13

Fear and loathing: In a recent poll for ITV's *Teletext*, 97 per cent of *Coronation Street* viewers said the new *Battersea* family should be written out. Page 20

TV skills: Explaining foreign news and scientific developments on TV must be the hardest kind of journalism there is. Page 20

Picture perfect: William Hague's fiancée caught sampling a Cool Johnny! The news from Nottingham Hill over the Bank Holiday sent stressed picture editors into paroxysms of delight. Page 21

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Is no blame and no punishment the answer to bullying? *Bully* (BBC2, 6.45pm). Review: Matthew Bond on the return of the rookie vets. Pages 42, 43

OPINION

Ireland's President

If the benefits Ireland's President has brought to Irish political culture are to be built on, including a sympathetic understanding of Unionist concerns, then a figure to match her must be found. None has yet appeared. Page 17

Whitehall rumbling

Robin Cook's statement on Montserrat recalls John Major at his most ineffective, in the moments when he allowed misplaced loyalty to errant colleagues to warp his political judgment. Page 17

Martyr to the market

In Che Guevara's case, history is being replayed not as farce, but as marketing. Buy your souvenir better now. Page 17

COLUMNS

R.W. JOHNSON

Despite the graciousness of the tributes now being paid to F.W. de Klerk by President Mandela and others, there is no doubt that it has been a spectacularly mistimed resignation. Page 16

SIMON JENKINS

Over its bleak quarter century, the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act, a law supposedly protecting ourselves, our children and "society" from harmful products, has done the opposite. Page 16

ALAN COREN

Bank Holiday Monday was the first day of the rest of William and Elton's life. The phoney war was over and five years of no-quarter tooth-and-claw public relations stretched ahead. Page 16

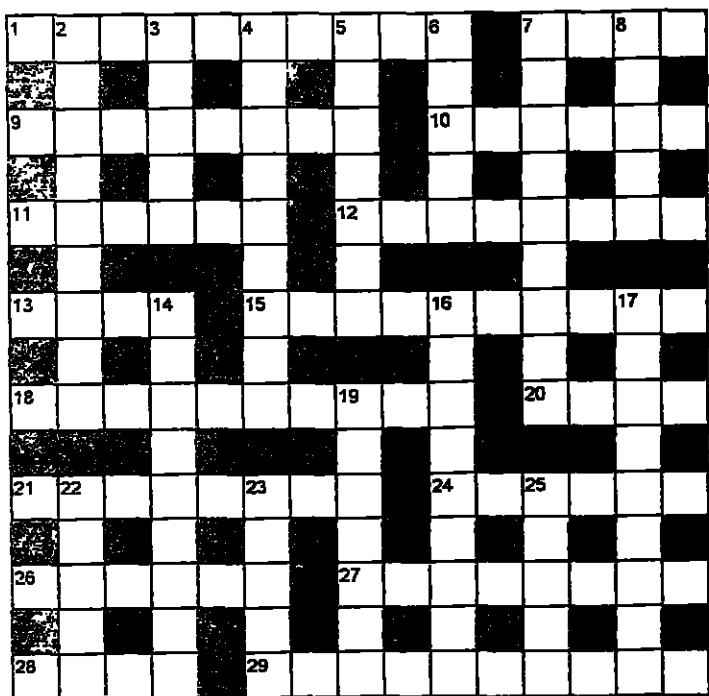
OBITUARIES

Sir John Kendrew, biochemist: The Right Rev John Mordaunt, former Bishop of Northern Nigeria; Mary Louise Smith, American Republican politician. Page 19

LETTERS

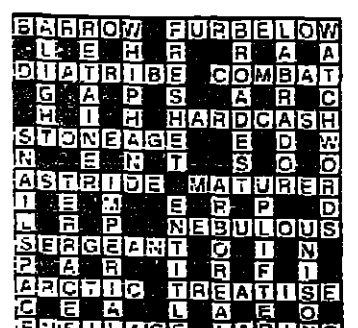
Bill of Rights: wild gardens: waste of resources on new Army Staff College; more efficient Tube and rail network for London; teenage pregnancies; Indira Gandhi's white streak. Page 17

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,569



- ACROSS
- Improve efficiency of run in old railway (10)
 - The best tool for road repairs (4)
 - Girl carrying receipts slips (8)
 - Composer of the Wagnerian type (6)
 - Shoot? Pistol gives me a start (9)
 - Stone set my hat spinning (9)
 - Minister's first to enter better political group (4)
 - Total fury is very fashionable (5,3,4)
 - My young son's misbehaving, not good — or similarly defined (10)
 - Head of agency caught like a fish out of water (4)
 - Wakes, stifling surprised cry, and moves to a new place (6)
 - Selling point with words heard in court (6)
- DOWN
- Spicy snack? Article found on island (with second in other islands) (6)
 - Spreads news of accident in landing area (8)
 - Human body left in island (4)
 - Swift to snap up a print in place offering bargains (4,6)
 - One of the branches controlled by banks (9)
 - Like courses finished in college, we hear (5)
 - Prepare to become a breadwinner (4,5)
 - Establish the location of many a farm animal (7)
 - A few good shots, and hunting-dogs's heading off (5)
 - Someone sitting on a horse (9)
 - Degree students (5)
 - Still the same in the office? (9)
 - Graph representing logarithms without line (9)
 - Variety of paper, new, interrupting rival communication network (9)
 - Performing male may be seen in one (2,5)
 - Corresponding use of keys (1-4)
 - Stick man? (5)
 - Teacher's expression of disgust over our skipping university (5)

Solution to Puzzle No 20,568



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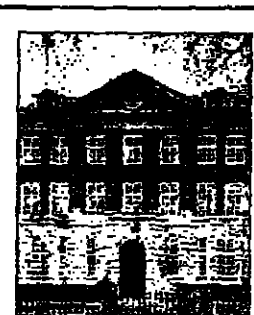
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 27 1997

Tobacco firms in US face pressure to settle

By Oliver August

THE LEADING tobacco companies are facing pressure to settle smoking-related legal actions worth up to \$20 billion (£12.5 billion) with two southern US states, after the \$11.3 billion deal with Florida.

The Florida settlement means that BAT Industries, which owns the US cigarette-maker Brown & Williamson, will have to pay \$95 million to the state of Florida by September 15. It will then make payments starting at \$35 million next year and rising to \$70 million by 2004.

The focus of the tobacco row will now move to other southern states with damage payments looming — Texas will begin court proceedings this week, while Georgia is to seek damages after previously suspending its action.

On Monday, US tobacco companies agreed to an \$11.3 billion settlement with Florida over health care costs incurred from smoking-related illnesses. A total of 40 states have sued the tobacco industry. Mississippi was the first to win a settlement, worth \$3.6 billion, this year.

A separate \$368 billion national deal is awaiting Congressional approval. It will supercede all the state deals, but if it fails the tobacco companies will have to pay out on a state-by-state basis.

The Florida settlement amounts to 5.5 per cent of the national settlement and is tax-deductible. Tim Young, analyst at SocGen Securities, said: "This settlement will ease the passage of the national deal through Congress."

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BA cuts bookings in costly bid to ease Heathrow chaos

By Jon Ashworth



Crowd scenes: congestion affecting British Airways' check-in desks at Heathrow. The airline has taken measures to end the disruption

BRITISH AIRWAYS is turning away millions of pounds worth of bookings in an attempt to ease the pressure at Heathrow, its main operational base, which has suffered a summer of delayed flights and baggage disruptions.

The "world's favourite airline" has admitted that the move, aimed at reducing the number of passengers transferring to and from long-haul flights, will result in the group suffering a significant financial hit. BA estimates that disruption linked to the recent industrial action by cabin crew cost it at least £125 million, and the airline faces further hefty payouts on lost and delayed baggage.

Difficulties at Heathrow are a further blow for Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, who is seeking cost savings of £1 billion a year under his Business Efficiency Programme. Mr Ayling's uncompromising stance has led to accusations of "macho management" and complaints within BA that facilities in many areas are overstretched.

Baggage system failures and go-slows by BA handlers at Heathrow, coupled with huge volumes of passengers transferring between Terminals One and Four, has resulted in widespread disruption to flights. To ease the strain, BA has instructed its direct sales force not to overbook flights at peak times, and to turn away low-yield bookings on feeder routes from Europe and regional UK airports.

It hopes that the measures will provide a stop-gap solution at the airport, where flights have been running at up to 98 per cent of capacity, compared with the more usual figure of 75 per cent.

BA typically overbooks flights by 10 to 20 per cent to compensate for "no-shows" — passengers who book but fail to turn up. This is being

scrapped at peak times until the end of September. In addition, the BA sales force is being told to sell 10 to 15 per cent fewer peak-time economy tickets on short-haul routes until the end of October.

At Terminal 1, bookings will be restricted between 4pm and 10pm on Sunday — the peak time for returning passengers. Bookings at Terminal 4 will be reduced between 11am and 3pm from Friday to Sunday. Up to 180,000 passengers a day have been passing

through Heathrow this month, compared with an average for the rest of the year of 120,000 to 130,000 a day.

BA said the measures would provide a "firebreak" for check-in staff and baggage handlers, easing pressure at departure gates. The aim is to cap the number of passengers transferring between Terminal 1 and Terminal 4 at 16,000 a day, compared with figures running at up to 20,000. A spokesman said: "It is obviously something that will have

an effect on revenue. It is worth taking a short-term hit with a view to sorting out the longer-term problems."

Up to 40 per cent of BA passengers at Heathrow transfer from other flights, leaving little margin for error. During the first weekend in August about 5,500 items of luggage were misplaced or delayed. Forwarding misplaced baggage costs BA about £100 per item, leaving it facing a huge additional expense. The airline faces additional

claims for compensation of up to £12 per kilogram. Travel agents were awaiting full details yesterday. Mike Plant, director of commercial affairs at Hogg Robinson Business Travel International, said: "The fundamental problem is that Heathrow is groaning at the seams. In a few years, the place is going to be gridlocked. These are the first warning signs..."

BA's troubles will be seized on by rivals, including Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic,

which was quick to capitalise on the controversy over the new BA livery, introduced at a cost of £60 million. The decision by BA to drop the Union flag from its aircraft prompted Mr Branson to snatch the national colours for his fleet.

BA made a pre-tax profit of £640 million (£585 million) in the year to end-March. Aviation analysts have sharply revised their 1997 forecasts in the light of the recent industrial action, coupled with the impact of the strong pound.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	4886.3 (-14.8)
Yield	3.45%
FTSE All Share	2306.04 (-4.07)
Nikkei	18814.98 (-152.81)
New York	7839.13 (-20.44)*
Dow Jones	920.27 (-0.11)*
S&P Composite	920.27 (-0.11)*
US RATE	
Federal Funds	5.75% (5.75%)
Long Bond	98% (98%)
Yield	6.86% (6.86%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-month interbank	7.25% (7.25%)
Life long gilt	114% (114%)
STERLING	
New York	1.6121* (1.6090)
London	1.6127 (1.623)
DM	2.9036 (2.917)
FF	9.7882 (9.8221)
SF	2.4016 (2.4068)
Yen	191.13 (192.59)
£ Index	101.6 (101.7)
DOLLAR	
London	1.7988* (1.8196)
DM	6.6570* (6.1285)
FF	1.4875* (1.5020)
Yen	118.34* (118.28)
£ Index	105.5 (105.5)
Tokyo close Yen	118.53
NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Nov)	\$18.40 (\$18.60)
GOLD	
London close	\$324.85 (\$324.85)
* denotes midday trading price	

Vauxhall chief for Tecs job

THE Government yesterday began a shake-up of the much criticised Training and Enterprise Councils, with the appointment of an industrialist to head a new training standards council. Nick Reilly, chief executive of Vauxhall Motors, will try to boost standards in a massive review of the private companies used by Tecs to provide the training that is funded by the Government.

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Royal designer tries to save fashion company

By Chris Ayres

ELIZABETH EMANUEL, the designer who shot to fame after making Lady Diana Spencer's wedding gown, yesterday pleaded for emergency financial backing as her fashion business teetered on the edge of collapse.

Her company was jeopardised by the collapse of Hamlet, the clothing importer that owned a 48 per cent stake. Coopers & Lybrand, the administrator, put the stake up for sale yesterday, along with Hamlet's other businesses.

Ms Emanuel, 44, who has designed clothes for Elizabeth Hurley, Patsy Kensit and Elizabeth Taylor, owns 52 per cent stake in her company, but cannot afford to keep it afloat alone. "It was a huge shock," she said. "Hamlet said they would take on the financial side of the company and look after us every step of the way."



Diana, Princess of Wales, in her wedding dress

The collapse came at a critical time in the company's development. It launched its first ready-to-wear collection in New York last month, at the same time as the charity auction of dresses belonging to

Diana, Princess of Wales. "We have a fashion collection which we can't show," Ms Emanuel said. "We're looking for an angel or a white knight to come along and keep the business afloat."

Stena Line fires salvo at MMC

By George Sivell

STENA LINE, the Swedish cross-channel ferry operator, yesterday blamed the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for a deterioration in its commercial position that led to a net loss of Kr415 million (£32 million) for the six months to the end of June.

P&O and Stena have proposed a merger of their cross-channel operations, but the deal remains the subject of an MMC inquiry. The Department of Trade and Industry will not comment on the timing of any announcement of the decision and the ensuing recommendation by Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade.

Stena said "the competition authorities' time-consuming decision-making process has worsened the business situation and created worries in the company's UK subsidiary. This has had an increasingly disruptive

effect on the earnings trend in the second quarter."

The total number of Stena Line passengers rose 4 per cent to 7.3 million and freight volumes increased 18 per cent to 554,000 units. The number of English Channel passengers rose 4 per cent to 3.4 million, although freight increased 31 per cent to 260,000 units because of the effects of the Channel Tunnel fire.

Sales across the entire group grew from Kr3.97 billion to Kr4.27 billion and the operating loss shrank from Kr332 million to Kr261 million. However, the net loss rose from Kr401 million to Kr415 million. Losses per share grew to Kr6.70 from Kr6.50.

Stena said that it could not give a precise forecast for 1997 earnings until a merger ruling was given, but added that it expected results to improve.

Lack of MCI escape clause knocks BT

By Eric Reguly

SHARES of British Telecom fell 5 per cent yesterday after it confirmed that its new merger agreement with MCI contained no escape clause and that dividend payments this year would be held at last year's level.

The agreement, filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, means that BT must complete the £14 billion takeover even if MCI, America's second-largest long distance operator, issues another surprise profits warning or suffers a material change in its business.

BT began negotiations to lower the price after MCI said in July that losses in its local calls business would come to \$800 million (about £496 million) this year — double the previous forecast. Facing a shareholder revolt, BT managed to reduce the price by

about 15 per cent on the terms agreed late last year. The lower price seems to have won shareholder support.

BT has also agreed to pay MCI \$750 million if shareholders reject the merger's revised terms. The company is to hold an extraordinary general meeting in November and intends to complete the merger by the end of the year.

One analyst said the elimination of the escape clause had made investors a little bit nervous and contributed to the 22½p slide in the share price, to 413½p. Profit-taking was also behind the decline. BT shares rose 14 per cent last week when it disclosed MCI's willingness to agree new terms.

The City yesterday estimated that BT's dividend payments could decline to as little as 18p this year after a regulatory filing said that the

payments would not exceed 20p. In the year to March 31, BT's dividend payments were 19.35p, up 6 per cent over the previous year.

The dividend payments are being adjusted to reflect the special 35p dividend that is to be paid next month. BT shares fell on the ex dividend date and the lower dividend payments will ensure the yield remains roughly constant.

MCI shareholders are not eligible for BT's dividend payments in the current year. Concert, the name of the merged company, will pay its first interim dividend to all shareholders in February 1998.

BT said that its existing global joint venture with MCI had won contracts worth \$135 million over three years. Companies buying the telecoms service include Microsoft, Pirelli and Compaq.

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Market hopes soar for winning glider

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE first glider to be built in Britain for more than 20 years is to go into full-scale production after its 74-year-old pilot easily won a soaring competition.

The EAV Optimist was designed by John Edgley. The prototype was entered in last week's Lasham championships, which attracted more than 100 competitors. Piloted by Derek Piggott, a gliding instructor, the Optimist won its class outright on three of the seven days of competition and on one long cross-country trial was the only aircraft able to return to base.

Mr Piggott, one of the world's leading glider pilots for nearly 50 years, said yesterday: "Considering this glider is not designed especially for competition flying, it has an astonishing rate of climb and is very easy to fly and to handle. It gave me one of the best days flying I have ever had and completed the 300-kilometre trial in under four hours."

Now Mr Edgley is opening a small factory at Bideford in Devon to make the gliders. They have a 15.7-metre wingspan and a framework of fibreglass, which is used in commercial aircraft. They will be for sale in kit form to enthusiasts and clubs for £10,500.

"I noticed that there was a big gap in the glider market," he said. "None has been built in Britain for well over 20 years and the big makers are now in Germany, France, the US or Eastern Europe."

A new, foreign-built glider costs well over £20,000 without instruments or trailer. Most of the 100 or so traded in Britain each year are second hand.

Barry Rolfe, general secretary of the British Gliding Association, said: "We are absolutely delighted for John Edgley. It is important that his project is a success, not just for gliding but for the whole of British light aviation. We have not had a glider made in Britain since the Slingsby Vega in the late 1970s."



Derek Piggott, veteran pilot, who found the Optimist easy to fly and to handle, said it gave him one of the best days flying he had ever had

Japanese productivity threat to jobs of British carmakers

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING EDITOR

THOUSANDS of car industry jobs are coming under threat as Japanese factories in Britain surge to the top of the productivity league.

Nissan's factory at Washington, Tyne and Wear, is now the most efficient in Europe, according to a study by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). Honda and Toyota fill third and fourth places, over-

shadowing domestic manufacturers, which are struggling to match their pace.

But the EIU believes that European carmakers will have to react with a huge shakeout of the workforce if they are to survive the onslaught from Japan and South Korea. "European manufacturers must no longer compromise in reducing manning levels progressively as productivity improvements are made," it says. "They cannot

hope that capacity and demand will converge naturally at some time in the future."

Only two other British car plants achieved the top 20 in the efficiency league: General Motors' Vauxhall plant at Luton, which makes the Vectra, and Rover's Longbridge plant in Birmingham, home of the Mini, Rover 100, 200 and 400, and MGF.

Nissan, which now has 4,133 workers, made 73.2 cars per employee last year at

Washington. Vauxhall turned out 34.9 at Luton and Longbridge just 28.2.

Toyota's plant at Burnaston, Derbyshire, employing 2,000, made 66.9 cars per employee, while Honda's 2,200 workers at Swindon in Wiltshire, turned out 64.2.

Toyota's production of the Carina E mid-range model was up 32 per cent, while Honda pushed output of its Accord and Civic models up 16 per cent. Honda is looking for

an extra model to boost totals even further by the turn of the century.

Only GM's Opel plant at Eisenach, Germany, is anywhere near the Japanese, though it was pushed into second place by Washington.

The EIU report adds: "The success of Japanese production in Europe is set to continue. However, they are still a long way off the productivity levels of some plants in Japan where the leaders — such as Honda's Suzuka and Mitsubishi's Mizushima facilities — achieve productivity of more than 100 vehicles a year per employee."

The report emphasises the struggle European carmakers face in trying to balance efficiency with quality. Speeding up assembly lines, many outdated and overmanned, could result in unreliable cars, which would damage consumer confidence and reduce sales, sending carmakers into a spiral of lost sales.

Windfalls help to hold up Pep sales

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE PREDICTED slump in personal equity plan sales in the wake of the July 2 Budget has failed to materialise thus far thanks to building society windfalls and buoyant share prices.

unit trusts, usually the main vehicle, held up at £540 million in July, the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (AUTIF) calculates. This was about £100 million a month less than in May and June, but compares with £379 million in July last year.

In the Budget, Gordon

Brown, the Chancellor, abolished Peps' right to recover tax paid on dividends, albeit only after 1999, and announced that Peps were to be replaced by a new savings vehicle whose details are not yet known. This was expected to hit sales badly.

Instead, windfalls from the

conversion of mutual businesses powered Pep sales ahead, although most of these do not show up in the AUTIF figures.

Many schemes were launched to put shares in former building societies into single company Peps, or convert them into a unit trust Pep.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Lanica and the Naafi discuss Select stake

LANICA TRUST, Andrew Regan's investment vehicle, is in talks to sell its 55 per cent in Select Catalogues, a mail order joint venture, to its partner, the Naafi, the armed services trading arm. The Naafi said it was unlikely to pay substantially more for the stake than the £162,000 Lanica spent to purchase its interest last November. Lanica, which backed the aborted £1.2 billion bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society earlier this year, had hoped to float the business, which sells to 250,000 servicemen and women worldwide, for as much as £20 million. However, the business is valued by the Naafi at a fraction of this price tag. "We are a non-profit making organisation run for the benefit of service personnel," a Naafi official said. "Therefore we are not going to pay a price which will yield a substantial profit for Lanica."

Criminal charges against Mr Regan and David Lyons, his partner, related to the CWS bid, were dropped last week. However, a police investigation continues into the passing of confidential CWS documents to Galileo, Lanica's bid vehicle, and to Hambros and Travers Smith Braithwaite, its advisers.

Sanderson Bramall up

SANDERSON BRAMALL, the motor dealership, yesterday said it was ready to make substantial acquisitions, but declined to say if this included Appleyard, a troubled rival. Sanderson Bramall has 26 car dealerships and 11 commercial dealerships, mainly in the North and the Midlands. Yesterday it reported a rise in pre-tax profits in the six months to June 30, from £6.1 million to £6.5 million. Earnings rose to 13.25p (12.18p) a share. The interim dividend is increased to 1.34p (1.0p) a share, payable on November 1.

Oilfield given approval

ENTERPRISE OIL has received Department of Trade and Industry approval to develop the Pierce field in the central North Sea. Enterprise also said it had completed its deal with BP in which Enterprise will buy BP's 42.8 per cent interest in Pierce in return for Enterprise's 24.05 per cent of the Arethyst field and 13.50 per cent of its interest in Ravenspurn North. Enterprise's overall interest in Pierce will rise to 74 per cent. The field is expected to begin production next August at 20,000 barrels a day, rising to 45,000 soon after.

Sales decline hits Astec

SHARES in Astec (BSR), the Hong Kong electronics company listed in London, fell 19p to 141p yesterday, after it reported a 10 per cent slump in sales for the six months to June 30, from £199.1 million to £179.4 million. Pre-tax profits fell by just under 1 per cent from £13.1 million to £13 million, with earnings per share falling 3 per cent from 3.32p to 3.22p. An interim dividend of 0.69p (0.63p) will be paid on November 4. The company said profits and earnings had been hit by its plans to gain market share. *Tempus*, page 26

John Mansfield ahead

JOHN MANSFIELD, the small quoted timber company turned into an acquisition vehicle in June by Julian Treger and Brian Myerson through their predatory UK Active Value Fund, yesterday said that its first purchase would be made within the next few months. Meanwhile, the timber business reported a 5.7 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £130,000 on a 17.4 per cent rise in turnover to £6.4 million. Earnings per share were unchanged at 0.15p. No interim dividend will be paid. The company expects higher margins in the second half.

Cortecs seeks licence

CORTECS International, the oral drug development company, has filed its first application for a licence to market Macrinon, its osteoporosis drug, in the Republic of Ireland. The company hopes to use the mutual recognition process operated by the European Medicines Evaluation Agency to secure pan-European approval for its capsule as soon as possible. However, Cortecs still intends to apply to other national agencies — apparently fearing the mutual recognition process may be amended in the next year or so.

Newport bid 'rejected'

DELYN, the AIM-listed company, declared yesterday that holders of 55.97 per cent of its shares had given "irrevocable undertakings" not to accept the current offer by Newport Holdings. Delyn added that the undertakings would fall away in the event of a revised offer from Newport or another third party. Delyn also invited Newport to announce formally its intention to allow the offer to lapse at the first closing date, "thereby saving both Delyn and Newport unnecessary costs". Shares in Delyn remained unchanged at 97½p yesterday.

Irish Permanent rises

IRISH PERMANENT, Ireland's biggest lender, boosted pre-tax profits by 11.5 per cent to Ir£25.9 million (£23.76 million) in the first six months of the year. Loans and advances to customers rose 9.6 per cent to Ir£3.4 billion. Together with strong growth from Irish Permanent Finance, its car and consumer finance subsidiary, net interest income increased 9.5 per cent to Ir£53 million. Total assets rose 13 per cent to Ir£5.6 billion. Earnings rose to Ir£20.6p a share from Ir£18.5p. A gross interim dividend of Ir£5.8p, up 11.5 per cent, will be paid on September 3.

3i to expand fund

THE venture capital group, 3i, is expanding its fund for investment in smaller British buyouts and buyins. The original fund was launched this spring and will now be augmented with further funding, raising the total available to £250 million from the original £62.5 million. The company and the original investor, a leading British pension fund, are making further commitments of £137.5 million and Nederlandse Participatie Maatschappij, the Dutch investment manager, will commit £50 million.

Clydeport in talks with bank over property venture

By CHRIS AVRES

CLYDEPORT, the privatised port services company with operations in Glasgow, Greenock and Hunterston, yesterday said that it was in talks with the Bank of Scotland over a possible property joint venture.

The company already has a joint venture with the Clydesdale Bank, called Clydesdale Properties, which recently completed a £2 million investment and plans to spend another £8 million over the next year.

Peter McKellar, Clydeport's corporate development director, said: "We're talking to the bank, but they are pushing us harder than we are pushing them. With the Clydesdale joint venture, we buy industrial property and develop it, which is high yielding. Although most of the property is based in West Scotland, we could soon move to the rest of Scotland, the North of England and also Northern Ireland."

The statement came as Clydeport reported a 47.8 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30, from £2.8 million to £4.2 million. Turnover rose 15.7 per

cent, from £9.02 million to £10.4 million, with earnings per share rising 47.8 per cent, from 6.8p to 10.1p.

Clydeport, which recently appointed Tom Allison as chief executive after a six-month search prompted by David Hunt's resignation in February, said that trading in the second half might not be as strong as in the first.

However, the company expects a satisfactory performance for the full year. An interim dividend of 1.7p (1.5p) will be paid on October 10.



McKellar: Scottish plans

Barclay brothers buy failed newspaper

Sunday Business rescue plan

By JASON NISSE

THE secretive Barclay brothers, whose empire includes *The Scotsman*, *The European* and the Ritz Hotel in London, yesterday paid a nominal sum for *Sunday Business*, the national newspaper that ceased publication seven weeks ago.

Frederick and David Barclay plan to relaunch the title, probably in the spring, with a completely new look and editorial emphasis. Bert Hardy, chief executive of the Barclays' European Press Holdings, said that he wants to put together a "very reputable

and capable team of journalists" for the newspaper. *Sunday Business* first appeared in April last year, immediately ran into trouble and was rescued from administration. After its largest shareholder, Group 2000, collapsed in July, the paper's founder and original editor, Tom Ruythoff, backed by Owen Oyston, the media entrepreneur jailed for rape, led a failed rescue package.

Mr Hardy said the Barclays were interested in other titles, notably *The Independent* and *Independent on*

Sunday, which they are believed to be willing to buy for up to £35 million. Although Mirror Group is interested in selling its 46 per cent stake, the other 46 per cent shareholder, Tony O'Reilly's Independent Newspapers, says it is committed to *The Independent* for the long term.

Mirror Group has also looked at launching a daily financial newspaper in conjunction with Bloomberg, the financial information group. However, after extensive market research, the plans have been dropped.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.27	2.29
Austria Sch	21.45	19.78
Belgium Fr	23.75	23.19
Canada \$	0.70	0.71
Cypriot Cyp	0.200	0.200
Denmark Kr	11.85	10.78
Finland Mk	5.94	5.45
France Fr	10.25	9.47
Germany Dm	3.07	2.85
Greece Dr	208.28	192.70
Hong Kong \$	13.28	12.09
Iceland Kr	127	107
Ireland Ir	1.14	1.08
Israel Shk	6.01	5.58
Italy Lira	2013	2778
Japan Yen	166.25	158.70
Malta Mls	0.686	0.610
Netherlands Gld	3.482	3.165
Norway Kr	2.06	1.92
Portugal Esc	12.71	11.77
Spain Ptas	207.53	200.50
Sweden Kr	257.25	238.50
Switzerland Fr	13.36	12.45
Taiwan Nts	2.25	2.15
Turkey Lira	277.025	259.047
USA \$	1.719	1.578

Source: for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclay Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

► REWARDING TIMES ◀

10 bestsellers for just £1.98 each

This week *The Times*, in association with Penguin Books, gives you the chance to obtain up to ten bestselling paperbacks for your summer reading for as little as £1.98 each. There are eleven outstanding works of fiction for you to choose from and one autobiography.

All you have to do is collect four tokens per title from the six published in *The Times*. Below are two of the titles you can choose (a full list was published yesterday). Other bestsellers include Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, *A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess, *The Trial* by Franz Kafka and *Cry The Beloved Country* by Alan Paton.

Harvest
"By far her best book" - Elizabeth Buchan in the *Sunday Times*

MY FAMILY AND OTHER ANIMALS

LEFT: Every year the wife of a serial adulterer throws a party in his honour. This year he has won and she will be his. RIGHT: It is a close-run thing who the author's eccentric family or the animals he studies.

THE TIMES
TOKEN 3

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Lanica and the N discuss Select stake

Sanderson Bramall

Oilfield given approval

Sales decline hits As

John Mansfield ahead

Cortec seeks licence

Newport bid rejected

Irish Permanent rise

to expand fund

rescue plan

The experts at Ladbroke would not bet against Steve Bollenbach winning his battle to take control of ITT. His energy and determination have reinvigorated the Hilton hotels group and he is now putting all his drive into his assault on the rival organisation.

Ladbroke has reason to wish him well in his efforts, for if Bollenbach succeeds in winning control of ITT, there should certainly be extra business spinning in the British company's direction. But equally intriguing is how the relationship between Ladbroke and Hilton might develop should Bollenbach encounter the unaccustomed experience of failure in his ITT bid.

Much now depends on the deliberations of a Nevada judge, who is being asked to rule that ITT's imaginative strategy for funding off Bollenbach should not be allowed to proceed without shareholder approval. Judges in Nevada may take a more laissez faire view of corporate equities, but the scale of the actions being proposed by ITT would certainly seem to demand the go ahead from the company's owners. Although there is little sign of outright shareholder rebellion, Hilton has found some investors disgruntled enough to provide the necessary affidavits to the court.

Most ITT shareholders merely rejoice in the fact that Bollenbach has spurred their company into a display of imagination and activity not seen for many years. The plan to divide the business into its component parts, with a juicy special dividend heading to investors, is a neat retort to Bollenbach's hostile bid.

But if shareholders were to have a say in the deal, they might well opt for joining forces with Bollenbach, who could make much of the Sheraton brand and would enlist the help of Ladbroke in running some of the hotels, and, probably, casinos.

The two are already linked, since Bollenbach has moved to rectify the nonsense of having the Hilton brand operated by two unrelated companies. So far, their plans for an international Hilton alliance are backed by a promise of cross shareholdings which might extend to 20 per cent. Ladbroke chief executive Peter George sits on the Hilton Hotels board where, it is to be hoped, he gains a clearer picture of what's going on than Sir Peter Bonfield managed from his perch on the MCI board.

All is sweetness between the two, and the co-operation agreement precludes a hostile bid. But if ITT can keep Bollenbach at bay, the chances are that he might turn his attentions to getting closer to Ladbroke. He

Backing Bollenbach either way



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

could suggest that betting shops and hotels are not a natural fit and that Ladbroke would benefit from the sort of restructuring that ITT is now advocating.

The generous bids currently being made for the William Hill chain indicate that there would be no shortage of takers for Ladbroke's bookie business. For Ladbroke shareholders, the Nevada court case could be one unrecognised by the bookmakers: heads you win, tails you win.

Investors' money on the line

The antics of the BT board continue to give cause for concern. Having raised their hands in horror and, only last week, indicated that doubts about the MCI takeover were so significant that there was no certainty that the deal would proceed, they are now back to being wholeheartedly enthusias-

tic about the purchase. So much so, that they are committing the company to going ahead with the merger irrespective of any further skeletons that may tumble from the MCI closet.

Any pretence that shareholders have a say in the matter can be forgotten, since the BT board has promised MCI that if it does not complete, it will pay damages of \$750 million (£465 million).

That is almost enough to make up for the losses which MCI is incurring in its brave entry into the US local telecoms market. But BT's apparent generosity does not stop there: it is also indemnifying the individual MCI directors against the possibility of legal action from shareholders should the merger be stopped by BT shareholders. Class actions being a way of life in the US, such an action would be inevitable, no matter where the real fault lay.

When faced with the formality of voting on whether they want the deal to go through, BT shareholders are likely to find that penalty clause features large in their thinking.

Nonetheless, some analysts are advising investors to vote against buying MCI, querying the wisdom of the strategy behind the purchase. It has the look of a desperate move to grow globally, embarked upon without sufficient research and now being carried through to preserve egos, both corporate and individual. Yes, BT has negotiated a reduced price for what it made clear it regarded as damaged goods. But the speed with which the renegotiations were accomplished begs the question as to why the MCI board was so keen to deal.

In the fast evolving world of telecoms it is inevitable that BT must seek international alliances. Yet with so many doubts over the future of MCI's strategy,

it cannot be the case that no more desirable partner could be found. In proceeding so determinedly with the deal, BT has had the dubious satisfaction of striking a massive blow to the arbitrageurs who took a punt on the outcome of the affair.

But it is BT shareholders who may yet have to pay a much higher price for this affair.

Working party will not work wonders

Yet another business-sman has taken on the task of leading another government initiative. We are still waiting for Anita Roddick to be appointed to head a special committee to investigate how nursery schools are dealing with impressionable youngsters' understanding of Aboriginal culture. Meanwhile, we have Vauxhall's Nick Reilly charged with improving the standard of training that is delivered through the test.

It is a noble aim, but hardly one that should rest with a well-intentioned committee. Like so many issues, this is one where government action is required, not another working party. The

root problem of the test is the failure of Government to decide what support it wants to provide for business and then to deliver it.

Some tests have been well managed, some have been appalling examples of local corruption on a scale to make the late T Dan Smith blush. They have existed in a limbo between national and local government, which has ensured that neither business nor trainees are guaranteed a reasonable service.

Similarly, the business links scheme, so beloved of Michael Heseltine, has failed to provide a uniform service across the country. Providing good quality training and help for business is a matter of national concern, and one which the Department of Trade and Industry should grasp firmly as its responsibility.

Another working party merely allows the present mess to continue.

Jaw-jaw

THE World Bank has offered to host a tête à tête in September between Malaysia's prime minister and George Soros, who he has rashly accused of attacking the ringgit. What a pity no such meeting was held five years ago between Mr Soros and our own Chancellor. Sterling would still have been devalued, but Norman Lamont might thereby have avoided the Day of Three Bank Rates, saved the UK's reserves and his own political career.

Hilton goes to court over ITT bid defence

By DOMINIC WALSH

HILTON Hotels Corporation, the American hotel and gaming giant embroiled in a protracted takeover battle for ITT Corporation, has turned to the courts in an attempt to have its arch rival's defence strategy declared illegal.

ITT, which owns the Sheraton Hotels brand, is planning to split in three as part of a scorched earth defence that has seen it sell \$2 billion (£1.2 billion) of assets since Stephen Bollenbach, Hilton's president and chief executive officer, launched the \$6.5 billion takeover bid in January.

Last month, Mr Bollenbach raised the bid to \$8.3 billion - worth \$11.5 billion including debt - and made it clear that this was his final offer. However, Rand Araskog, chair-

man and chief executive of ITT, gave the offer short shrift, declaring he would continue to pursue the plan to split.

In a motion filed with Nevada District Court on Monday, Hilton claimed ITT's refusal to put the break-up to a shareholder vote was illegal and that ITT's directors were in breach of their fiduciary duties. It has requested a hearing in a month's time.

Mr Araskog's scheme would create ITT Destinations, taking in hotels and gaming, and ITT Educational Services, an operator of technical colleges. That would leave ITT Corporation as a phone directory publisher. Mr Araskog argued that the plan was effectively a special dividend payment to shareholders

and, therefore, did not require formal approval.

A spokesman for Hilton said that ITT's action made a mockery of the company's decision to delay its May annual meeting until November in order to give shareholders more time to consider their options. "Now that they're saying shareholders won't be able to vote, it is clear that statement was, at best, disingenuous."

The spokesman confirmed that if the legal action failed the company would withdraw its offer. "If they're allowed to go through with this break-up scheme, ITT Destinations would end up with about \$4 billion of debt and there are serious tax implications. Our interest would cease." While

the battle for ITT continues there seems little immediate prospect of Hilton taking a stake in Ladbroke, the UK owner of the Hilton brand outside the US.

The two companies signed an alliance last year, reuniting the Hilton brand worldwide, and giving each an option to buy up to 20 per cent in the other.

Some analysts believe Ladbroke, which reports its interim results tomorrow, could become a takeover target for Hilton Hotels if its ITT bid fails. If it succeeds, however, Ladbroke is expected to be given a contract to operate some of the more prestigious Sheraton assets owned by ITT.

Hambro seeks to expand insurance business

By ADAM JONES

HAMBRO Countrywide, the estate agency and financial services group, is looking to buy a life insurer for up to £150 million to expand its existing insurance business.

The group, controlled by Hambros Bank, achieved a 130 per cent rise in pre-tax profits from £10.5 million to £24.2 million for the first half of 1997. The buoyant figures include a £5.4 million profit from its estate agency and financial services division, turning around a £600,000 first-half loss.

Completed house sales increased 16 per cent, to 44,742. Harry Hill, managing director of Hambro Countrywide, said the traditional July and August lull in buying had not taken place. But the company expects the rate of increase in property deals to fall in the second half of the year.

The average sale price for the six months was £69,700, compared to £63,500 in 1996. Since then it has risen to about £74,000, Mr Hill said.

Amid increasing competition among estate agencies, the average commission rate fell from 1.98 per cent to 1.94 per cent. The company said that its 230 offices outside London and the south of England are showing smaller improvements.

The life assurance division, Hambro Assured, saw profits rise from £9.1 million to £15.5 million. However, the overall profits include a £4.5 million exceptional gain from accounting changes.

The changes to the tax treatment of dividend payments, announced in the Budget, have contributed to a £1 million increase in the estimated cost to the company of clearing up its pension mis-selling cases.

Mr Hill admitted a £150 million price limit will constrain plans to buy a life insurer. "£150 million in the life sector doesn't buy an awful lot."

The company is looking for an established company that has perhaps seen a falling-off of new business. Mr Hill added that they were not in any discussions.

Price war fuels profit warning at Eurocopy

By PAUL DURMAN

A WARNING of four years of declining profits at Eurocopy, the quoted copier distributor, was yesterday blamed on the outbreak of a fierce price war in the photocopying industry.

Cyril Gay, Eurocopy's chairman, said copier manufacturers such as Sharp, Ricoh and Canon were responding to the threat posed by the two large US distributors, Danka and Alco, by selling more machines directly themselves. He said Sharp and Ricoh had recently established direct salesforces, and Canon was also putting more effort behind this sales channel.

Eurocopy's lengthy warning, which envisages its profits falling this year and each year until 2000, prompted its shares to collapse from 58p to 32p. This was their lowest for nearly five years, and far

below the 73p Mr Gay's daughters received when they sold nearly ten million shares last year. Shares in Danka fell 30p to 740p.

However, other companies disputed Eurocopy's account of developments within the photocopying market. Ricoh, which is Japanese-owned, said it had no intention of competing with Danka in the UK, said it had no intention of competing with Danka in the UK, said it had no intention of competing with Danka in the UK.

Tempus, which is Japanese-owned, said it had no intention of competing with Danka in the UK, said it had no intention of competing with Danka in the UK, said it had no intention of competing with Danka in the UK.

Lloyds TSB sells SMH of Germany

By ADAM JONES

LLOYDS TSB is selling Schroder Munchmeyer Hengst (SMH), its German investment bank, to UBS for £100 million.

SMH's customers have included a company run by John Bryan, the former associate of the Duchess of York, which went bust after borrowing from the German bank.

SMH was formed by the merger of three German banks in 1969 and was bought by Lloyds in 1984. Employing 400 workers, it has capital of DM180 million (£64 million) and acts as a fund manager and broker, mainly for institutions.

Lloyds TSB said that these functions are no longer a core concern. It had been rumoured as long ago as 1990, when Sir Brian Patten was disposing of other foreign ventures such as its US commercial banking interests, that the high street retail banking giant would sell SMH.

Lloyds' profit on the sale will be about £40 million. The proceeds will be included in the current year's accounts. The deal is subject to approval by German authorities.



Sir Anthony Bamford, JCB chairman, showing off the telescopic lifting arm of the Teletruk

JCB lifts sights to Europe

JCB, the privately owned construction equipment company, is to push into the forklift truck market (Christine Buckley writes).

The £6 billion forklift market is largely dominated by German, US and Japanese companies. JCB, owned by Sir Anthony Bamford and his

family, is spearheading its drive with a new vehicle design - the JCB Teletruk, which it regards as an innovation because of its telescopic arm as opposed to a traditional vertical mast on which a platform moves up and down.

The move into the industrial vehicle market marks an important shift for JCB. The truck will sell for about £20,000, which is the average cost of traditional forklifts.

JCB, which was founded 52 years ago and has become a household name in heavy construction equipment, has set its sights on the European market worth £2 billion a year.

Hansom prepares to complete sell-off

By OLIVER AUGUST

HANSOM GROUP, the taxi company, has put its last two businesses up for sale after two disastrous years on the Alternative Investment Market. The group has set a price tag of around £5 million for its black cab operations in London, the fourth-largest in the capital.

Hansom will then offer itself for sale as a shell company, providing a short cut to a London listing for an unquoted business. The company described itself as "an ideal home for a bigger business seeking a listing".

A successful sale of Databab and Richmond Cab Centre, which are both profitable, could increase the value of the

Moorfield acquires MoD homes

MOORFIELD Estate, the property company that was rebuffed last year in its attempt to take over Greycoat, is acquiring 149 houses that were formerly Ministry of Defence married quarters.

Moorfield is taking a 60 per cent interest in Upwood Limited Partnership, a partnership with Bankers Trust and Welbeck Estates, which is paying £4.15 million for the properties near Huntingdon.

The property company's partners were part of a consortium that unsuccessfully bid for the MoD residential properties in June last year that went for £1.6 billion.

Growing talk on the sale of IPC

By ERIC REGULY

SPECULATION that Reed Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch publishing group, wants to sell its British consumer magazines division increased yesterday after the company refused to confirm or deny reports that offers were being sought.

Analysts said that the sale of IPC, whose titles include *Marie Claire*, *TV Times* and *East Soap*, would make strategic sense.

The group has been selling its consumer divisions to concentrate on electronic publishing in the business, legal and scientific markets. Earlier this year it sold its adult fiction books business and is now trying to sell the children's

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Effective from 1st September 1997

PRODUCT	ANNUAL PREMIUM	NET GROSS	NET GROSS	NET GROSS
STANDARD	£100	£100	£100	£100
STANDARD	£200	£200	£200	£200
STANDARD	£300	£300	£300	£300
STANDARD	£400	£400	£400	£400
STANDARD	£500	£500	£500	£500

ACCOUNTS NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO NEW INVESTORS

PRODUCT	ANNUAL PREMIUM	NET GROSS	NET GROSS	NET GROSS
STANDARD	£100	£100	£100	£100
STANDARD	£200	£200	£200	£200
STANDARD	£300	£300	£300	£300
STANDARD	£400	£400	£400	£400
STANDARD	£500	£500	£500	£500

MORTGAGE RATES

The base rate of interest charged on new mortgages for interest rate only is 5.25% effective from 1st September 1997. It is a fixed rate, subject to the mortgage deal.

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STOCK MARKET

CLARE STEWART

New US deal on tobacco clears the air for BAT

BAT led the FTSE 100 risers yesterday as it jumped 19.1p to 533.1p. The increase came with news of the second settlement between a US state and the tobacco industry, leaving BAT's US division to pay around 17 per cent of the \$6.9 billion settlement, less than the worst forecasts.

The deal shows a willingness of both sides to reach a settlement, says Paul Preston, tobacco analyst at Sogen. Progress in the legal action removes much of the uncertainty hanging over the stock, he says. Mr Preston yesterday repeated his buy recommendation for BAT, for which he has a target price range of 67.3p to 82.2p.

In BAT's wake, Gallaher ended 2p lower at 234.1p, while Imperial Tobacco rose 5.1p to 393.2p. Both face legal action in the US, although resolution of the class actions is said to be some way off.

The smoke rising from the BAT settlement proved to be one of the more substantial news items for the market to grasp yesterday.

After wobbly Friday came cautious Tuesday as investors took profits or refuge in some blue-chip safe havens.

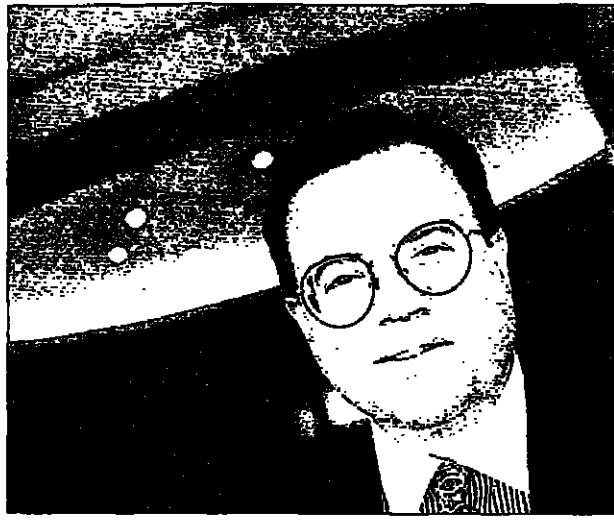
Secondary stocks were also in demand and the FTSE 250 held its own for much of the day. Weakness on bond markets and concern over a rise in German interest rates combined to drag the FTSE 100 49.2 points lower at its worst.

By the close, the index had recovered some ground, helped by stronger gilts and some support from Wall Street. The FTSE 100 ended off 14.8 at 4,886.3, with volume thin at around 550 million.

BT once again kept traders busy as nearly 34 million shares were traded, boosted again by arbitrage activity. The shares ended 22.2p lower at 413.3p, reflecting a degree of profit-taking and reaction to further details of the new MCI merger agreement.

A flurry of trading in Shell saw volumes of over 34 million, just pipping BT as the most heavily traded stock. The shares ended 2.1p higher at 425.1p. The oil sector was also lifted by gains at Burmah Castrol, which rose 16.1p to 111.02p, while Enterprise Oil rose 1p to 589.1p. The group has just received DTI approval for the Pierce field in the North Sea.

Centrica was in demand and added 2.1p to 88.1p, while



Howard Lance, of Astec, down 22.4p on poor results

electricity stocks were again sought after. National Grid put on 5p to 271p, while National Power was 5.1p ahead at 541.1p.

Reed International ended 2p lower at 547.1p, after cold water was poured on reports that the group was looking to sell its IPC Magazines business.

Banks were largely unchanged on the day. Barclays

closed off a penny at £14.04 after announcing a buyback of a further one million shares. Lloyds TSB was flat at 724.1p after selling its 90 per cent stake in a German private bank, Standard Chartered, however, lost some of its recent gains to close at 994p, down 15p.

It was helped 7.1p higher to 484.1p by positive comment, while sales of the new Oasis

album serenaded EMI Group to 554.1p, up 7p.

Bicompatibles headed the table of FTSE 250 performers, as shares leapt 62.1p to £115.1p. Fresh hopes that the healthcare group is about to finalise an important agreement with Johnson & Johnson were said to be behind the rise.

A warning of lower profits and a gloomy outlook on prospects for the next three to five years lit up warning lights at Eurocopy. Shares in the photocopy business dived nearly 45 per cent to 32p, a drop of 26p, and a new low for the company. Danka Business was dragged down by Eurocopy and ended 30p lower at 740p.

Storehouse continued its steady upward climb with a 3.1p rise to 235p. Speculation about interest from GUS was said to be behind some of the rumours, together with hopes of implementation at BHS.

Hambro Countrywide was unchanged at 123p after reporting a jump of 130 per cent in interim profits. Hambros, the merchant bank which has a 52 per cent stake in Hambro Countrywide, rose 2.1p to 232.1p.

Ahead of its figures today, Kalon Group, the chemicals and paints group, rose 5.1p to 162p, while disappointing first-half profits from Astec (BSR), left shares in the group 22.4p lower at 137.1p. The group, under Howard Lance, chief executive, warned that margins will be squeezed by moves to expand market share.

Style Holdings, the men's wear retailer, made its debut as an AIM-listed stock. Placed at 71.1p, the company rose to a premium of 12p, closing at 83.1p. Style is raising money to finance the expansion of its Envy retail chain.

GILTED-EDGED: A flurry of futures driven activity stung gilts yesterday, though the absence of any hard economic data meant a generally quiet day. The September series of the long gilt closed up 0.32 at £141.12, with 70,000 contracts completed.

Treasury 8 per cent 2000 edged up 0.22 at £102.12, while Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was 0.14 higher at £109.12.

NEW YORK: Shares pared more recent gains by late morning as the dollar recovered. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 20.44 points lower at 7,839.13.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 7,839.13 (-20.44)
S&P Composite 930.27 (-0.11)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 18,914.06 (+158.81)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 15,547.22 (+1,566)

Amsterdam: EOE Index 903.44 (+18.75)

Sydney: All Ordinaries 2,626.3 (+10.8)

Frankfurt: DAX 3,999.33 (+112.46)

Singapore: Straits Times 1,925.20 (+11.65)

Brussels: General 13,300.75 (+112.29)

Paris: CAC-40 2,949.26 (+29.41)

Zurich: SMI 1,622.50 (+21.30)

London: FTSE 100 4,886.3 (-49.2)

FTSE 250 3,650.1 (-4.7)

FTSE 1000 2,579.39 (-45.7)

FTSE All-Share 2,315.99 (-4.9)

FTSE 1000 Financials 1,254.54 (-0.8)

FTSE 1000 Non-Financials 2,315.99 (-4.9)

FTSE 1000 Industrial 2,315.99 (-4.9)

FTSE 1000 Services 2,315.99 (-4.9)

FTSE 1000 Utilities 2,315.99 (-4.9)

FTSE 1000 Healthcare 2,315.99 (-4.9)

FTSE 1000 Technology 2,315.99 (-4.9)

FTSE 1000 Consumer Goods 2,315.99 (-4.9)

FTSE 1000 Financial Services 2,315.99 (-4.9)

FTSE 1000 Industrial Goods 2,315.99 (-4.9)

FTSE 1000 Non-Financial Services 2,315.99 (-4.9)

FTSE 1000 Utilities 2,315.99 (-4.9)

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FTSE 1000 Utilities 2,315.99 (-4.9)

TEMPUS

Nerves of steel required

The big question is whether UK fund managers will stick to their cherished principles or abandon hope and chase the market leaders. Four consecutive quarters of underperformance in UK equities is a heavy burden. A reluctance to buy highly rated banks and pharmaceuticals is understandable, but that still begs the question as to where the funds will invest their growing cashflow that will be swollen further by another rash of share buybacks next year.

UK funds are significantly underweight in drug companies and banks, the darlings of the FTSE 100 but, more important, they are overinvested in cyclical industries. Statistics published by Dresdner Kleinwort Benson show UK institutions with a weighting of 4.5 per cent to the engineering sector, which accounts for only 3.7 per cent of the all-share

index. Likewise, our fund managers have been pouring money into the chemicals, building materials and the paper and packaging sector, while spurning retail banks, telecoms and the media sector.

This leaves active fund managers with a stock-picking problem: those who hope for a cyclical recovery in those businesses (engineering, chemicals) currently hammered by the strong pound will find themselves already fully invested. It also questions their belief in Britain's industrial recovery. While overseas funds, attracted by the lower UK share ratings, chase the banks or the dollar-denominated oil sector, our pension fund managers hope for a swift recovery in engineering businesses that have suffered a 25 per cent loss of price competitiveness. There is a good chance our fund managers could lose their nerve.

Eurocopy

EUROCOPY has produced its own version of a millennium timebomb - a warning of four years of declining profits until the year 2000. The photocopy distributor blames a savage price war, allegedly caused by the leading manufacturers Sharp, Ricoh and Canon fighting to protect their market share from the American distributors, Danka and Alcon.

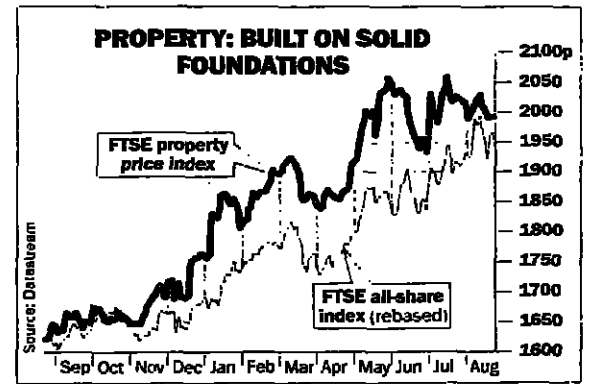
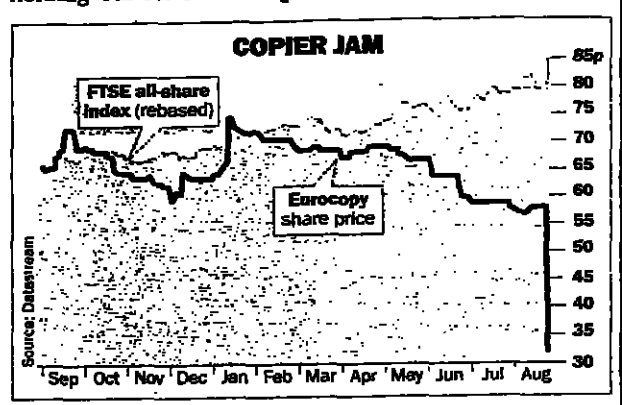
The market's sudden plunge into turmoil would be easier to believe if someone else was suffering. But Danka claims there is nothing to worry about, while Ricoh disputes that it has significantly increased its volume of direct sales. Special pleading? Well, perhaps. But even Eurocopy admits to finding it hard to acquire smaller businesses at what it calls acceptable prices. How

can this be if the future is so bleak? Surely Eurocopy was not alone in seeing the impending cataclysm?

Cyril Gay, the founder, chairman and largest shareholder, was certainly not so prescient two years ago, when he turned down a takeover offer of about 100p a share, apparently holding out for something

closer to 120p. After yesterday's slide, the shares are worth only 32p, of which 17p is accounted for by £8.5 million of cash.

At 62, Mr Gay does not have the time to steer Eurocopy through another prolonged recovery. With the business going nowhere, the shares are a bet on a takeover.



PROPERTY shares have seen a slowdown in the past three months, but the factors underpinning the sector have improved. So say analysts expecting to see a more confident performance by leading companies as economic factors and increased institutional interest filter through.

At the very least, says Robin White, an analyst with NatWest Securities, the sector should provide a good, defensive performance, but he says there could be a ten per cent relative outperformance over the rest of the year.

Shares in Slough Estates, due to report figures today, rose 8.1p to 323p, while Minerva climbed 10.1p to 188.1p after its £105 million property sale to Prudential.

Change of 27p after news of its acquisition of a former Mod site, MEPC, with plenty of cash in the bank and widely expected to announce acquisitions, was yesterday unchanged at 472.1p.

Among other stocks favoured by analysts, Greysteel dipped a penny to 183.1p and Pillar Properties rose 2p to 237.1p.

COMMODITIES

LIFE

COCA Cola 100.00 100.00
Pepsi 100.00 100.00
Soda 100.00 100.00
Soft 100.00 100.00
Hard 100.00 100.00
Ice 100.00 100.00
Tea 100.00 100.00
Coffee 100.00 100.00
Sugar 100.00 100.00
Wheat 100.00 100.00
Corn 100.00 100.00
Soybean 100.00 100.00
Rice 100.00 100.00
Cotton 100.00 100.00
Lumber 100.00 100.00
Gold 100.00 100.00
Silver 100.00 100.00
Platinum 100.00 100.00
Palladium 100.00 100.00

LIFE OPTIONS

Call 100.00 100.00
Put 100.00 100.00
Strike 100.00 100.00
Expiry 100.00 100.00
Premium 100.00 100.00
Commission 100.00 100.00
Broker 100.00 100.00
Clearing 100.00 100.00
Settlement 100.00 100.00
Delivery 100.00 100.00
Storage 100.00 100.00
Insurance 100.00 100.00
Taxes 100.00 100.00
Fees 100.00 100.00
Penalties 100.00 100.00
Miscellaneous 100.00 100.00

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Long Gilt 100.00 100.00
Short Gilt 100.00 100.00
Long Euro 100.00 100.00
Short Euro 100.00 100.00
Long Dollar 100.00 100.00
Short Dollar 100.00 100.00
Long Yen 100.00 100.00
Short Yen 100.00 100.00
Long Swiss 100.00 100.00
Short Swiss 100.00 100.00
Long French 100.00 100.00
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Long Italian 100.00 100.00
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Long Spanish 100.00 100.00
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Long Greek 100.00 100.00
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Long Colombian 100.00 100.00
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Long Haitian 100.00 100.00
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Long Jamaican 100.00 100.00
Short Jamaican 100.00 100.00
Long Trinidadian 100.00 100.00
Short Trinidadian 100.00 100.00
Long Barbadian 100.00 100.00
Short Barbadian 100.00 100.00
Long Guyanese 100.00 100.00
Short Guyanese 100.00 100.00
Long Surinamese 100.00 100.00
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Long Barbadian 100.00 100.00
Short Barbadian 100.00 100.00
Long Guyanese 100.00 100.00
Short Guyanese 100.00 100.00
Long Surinamese 100.00 100.00
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Long Peruvian 100.00 100.00
Short Peruvian 100.00 100.00
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Short Guatemalan 100

TEMPUS
s of steel require

Puzzles on the road to liberty or ruin

The fun is nearly over. There are precious few windfalls in sight after the Northern Rock payout, though there could, as HSBC points out this week, be more somewhere over the rainbow. There is still plenty of wealth that is not tradeable, and has no clear owner, starting with the 70 remaining mutual building societies. Their potential payout is £10 billion, the mutual insurance companies could contribute the same again, and there is still the Co-op, and such other "anomalous" as Bupa, the AA and RAC, schools, universities, trade unions, cricket clubs... All this could be "unlocked" but do not expect a rush — 1997, when some £30 billion fell like rain on parched consumers, will remain unique.

For economists, though, the fun has hardly begun. Up to now they have simply been trying to guess the impact on consumer spending this year, and perhaps next, and what effect, if any, this may have on inflation. But the episode is truly unprecedented and deserves deeper study. What is the real meaning of making so much wealth newly tradeable? Are members truly richer — the legendary free lunch — or was it simply a dangerous exercise in greed? Where does it fit in with that still bigger capital reorganisation known as privatisation? It will be years before we can be sure, but meanwhile it is fun trying to guess.

Start with inflation. Here we have a test bed for pure monetarism. Professor Milton Friedman, as you may remember, tried to make his doctrine

clear by describing the effect of scattering money from a helicopter: no real wealth would be involved so the only result could be to drive up prices. Unbelievers scoffed at this notion; that is not how money gets into circulation. But now it has happened in real life. If inflation does rise, his ideas may come back into fashion. But if it does not, we may begin to blow the dust off some older theories. Social Credit, for example, the Canadian notion that an economy might be energised by a free distribution of capital.



ANTHONY HARRIS

My own guess would be Keynesian: that is to say, that it all depends on the circumstances. If there is enough spare capacity in the economy — and this includes trading partners — then free capital, like devaluation, or government spending for that matter, may stimulate growth rather than inflation. In the 1960s and 1970s capacity was tight, and inflation high; but by the mid-1990s we had surplus capacity almost everywhere and widespread unemployment. So, if all goes well, with more growth but no more inflation, it may be Keynes whose

ideas are due for a comeback. Of course, this is not the first big free addition to tradeable capital: that was achieved by privatisation. This, in principle, was a debt-for-equity swap and should have reduced the national debt as fast as it added to the equity stock; but real life is not like that. The proceeds have largely been used by governments for current spending, which has devastated the public sector balance sheet. Governments have thus proved much less provident than building society account holders seem to be on present evidence, which may be important.

The economic puritans who largely run the world at the moment have

made privatisation a compulsory fashion: the IMF insists on it. The agenda here is surely political rather than economic: the Lawson doctrine that private citizens, and even privately-owned companies, are wiser managers than governments can ever be. This raises rather a big question: if citizens are so wise, why do governments need to have economic policies at all? Only the most logical of libertarians seems ready to face this one.

Yet these same puritans remain iffy about demutualisation. Something fishy there, they seem to suggest, as Tony Blair did when he patronisingly congratulated Nationwide members on their recent vote. This is surely illogical: if citizens are wiser than governments, they may also prove wiser than the very odd quangos that have run the mutual societies? So is it liberty or ruin? The question is not trivial.

Golden opportunity to realise black economic empowerment

Inigo Gilmore
on Cyril
Ramaphosa's
march from
barricades
to boardroom

Cyril Ramaphosa, trade unionist turned corporate champion, is a man on a mission to empower, and he is brimming with confidence. The architect of South Africa's new constitution is poised to acquire joint control of the world's third-biggest gold producer in a deal that promises to be the most spectacular development in the country's short history of black economic empowerment.

The former Secretary-General of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) and past leader of the National Mine Workers Union has, for some time, been eyeing a much-coveted prize in the South African mining industry — and now it is within his grasp. Last year he lost a bid for Anglo American's stake in JCI, the South African gold producer, currently in talks with Lonrho, but he seems determined to put all that behind him.

He concedes the deal is "complex" and will reveal little about the ongoing negotiations, but his broad smile speaks volumes. He said: "If it succeeds, it will have huge implications for black economic empowerment, in that we will have the second mining house owned and jointly controlled by a black economic empowerment group — like ours, Nalco (New Africa Investments Limited). It will also mean a partnership with an established grouping like the Rembrandt group."

It is widely held that Mr Ramaphosa quit politics after he was squeezed out of the race to succeed President Mandela by Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President. Sixteen months after he announced his plans to join the conglomerate Nalco, South Africa's biggest black-owned company, he has emerged as the standard bearer of black economic empowerment and arguably the country's most influential black businessman.

It has been, by his own admission, "a steep learning curve. He is on record as saying of his first meeting with Anglo's executives that he did not have the "lightest cue" what a price-to-earnings ratio was. Nevertheless, he is now on Anglo's board and is fast



Cyril Ramaphosa has emerged as the standard bearer of black economic empowerment in post-apartheid South Africa

learning the jargon of the corporate world.

Chairman of Johnnic, Times Media and South African Breweries, the country's leading industrial company, Mr Ramaphosa's move from the barricades to boardroom has been spectacular and he has already presided over the largest black economic empowerment deal in the country's history. The erstwhile contender for the post-Mandela presidency says he is thoroughly enjoying himself and argues that "you don't have to be a rocket scientist to be a businessman".

Whether he is able to successfully launch himself as an effective businessman, however, is a matter of some debate and the Gold Fields deal will be a crucial test. One of his business rivals, Mzi Khumalo, a former political prisoner, stole a march on him to take control of JCI, and Khumalo's talks with Lonrho are progressing.

It is perhaps inevitable that South Africa's two most prominent black businessmen — dubbed the "black randlords" in Johannesburg's financial circles — have set their sights on the mining industry, which accounts for 8 per cent of GDP. But it is a game of high stakes. While he concedes

there could be "dire consequences" if the gold price keeps falling, there's a touch of the Jimmy Goldsmith in his bullish attitude. "I'm learning in business that business is about taking risks, and we happen to think it's a risk well worth taking," he said. "Gold is in the doldrums now, gold shares are also lowly pegged. I happen to believe gold will rebound and will regain its status, and I have an abiding faith in future of the industry, particularly in this country."

Gavin Kelly, the former Anglo chairman, has said that Mr Ramaphosa, in his capacity as miners union general secretary, was the toughest and shrewdest negotiator with whom he had ever dealt. Mr Ramaphosa has sought to apply those skills in the corporate world but there is a perception that he may, at times, be a little out of his depth. His detractors would scoff at his idea that black ownership will improve labour relations.

A devout Christian, not to mention a handy fisherman, his faith in his abilities to overcome adversity stems in part from his remarkable success as the ANC's chief negotiator in constitutional talks to end apartheid. Whether it be the parlous state of relations

between the ANC and its trade union allies, or worrying questions about the scope of foreign investment, he has an abiding optimism that things will come right. He admits that he may be an idealist. Yet there would appear to be little room for idealism in the fast and furious post-apartheid business world. One senses that his old loyalties may sometimes cloud his judgment and that he feels obliged to stand by comrades from the struggle. Against the weight of foreign investor opinion, he unequivocally refuses suggestions that fractious labour relations are a disincentive for foreign investors in South Africa.

But that as it may his optimism is infectious and his sales pitch for South Africa is as good as any other. "We stand out as well as a number of other developing countries. We've got a very stable political system, democracy continues to entrench itself in South Africa. We have an outstanding financial services sector. Our macro-economic policies are sound and applauded by the World Bank and IMF — and not only that, but by foreign governments and foreign companies."

Mr Ramaphosa says he is driven by his desire to empower and transform society. In his view, established white businessmen have begun to understand the need for closer co-operation with emerging black business and share the same objectives. He has expressed admiration for the Rupert group with which he is starting to form a close relationship.

He is the first to acknowledge the irony of his supping with the capitalist devils he once sought to bring down, or the fact that the trade unions are turning capitalist. Many have drawn on their members' investment funds — the only significant source of black capital to have survived apartheid — to set up investment companies. This has, in turn, enabled them to appoint representatives to the boards of blue chip companies.

Mr Ramaphosa is clearly thrilled by what he terms the "silent revolution". He said: "My former colleagues in the trade unions are now in business, the trade unions have formed their own companies and we co-operate with them. One could not wish for a much more exciting dispensation. This concept of black economic empowerment is exploding around the country, drawing

people in. People who were formerly comrades in arms are now comrades in business and seeing how they can create wealth: wealth on a collective basis for members of trade unions."

He says the pace of change has not moved fast enough for his liking and he urges business to become more proactive and to take advantage of the weak rand. But he argues that black economic empowerment is a much broader concept than the narrow one of setting up businesses. He points to skills, provision of housing and healthcare as empowerment vehicles.

In this context he is clearly angered by suggestions that only a small clique of black fat cats have really benefited from empowerment.

"Our detractors, in as far as implementation of giving effect to black economic empowerment, often say 'oh yes, but it is just enrichment of a few blacks'. I say that is absolute rubbish because the same is not said about [Harry] Oppenheimer, who is the richest person in this country. The same is not said about white people when they accumulate wealth. It focuses on those few black people who are moving ahead and giving meaning, content to the empowerment process. It is much broader than just a Cyril Ramaphosa."

Looking ahead, Mr Ramaphosa says he will focus his attention on industrial, financial services and mining. But he is under no illusions about the extent to which he can personally push forward empowerment. "As our President says, all these things are a process. We are starting from a very low and poor base. We're starting right down there. The foundations are being laid on which the house of full empowerment may be built."

He will shortly be joined in the corporate world by Tokyo Sexwale, the outgoing premier of Gauteng province, and says his erstwhile political colleague will be a "welcome addition". As he looks to the future his prominence in the business world is certain to keep his profile firmly in the spotlight. Among others, Baroness Thatcher believes South Africa's hopes for the future depend largely on the continued well-being of Mr Ramaphosa. Apparently she even sought to dissuade him from going into business.

Will he heed the calls for his return to politics? "Well, they can keep dreaming, can't they," he said. Perhaps, though, he might consider challenging for the post-Mbeki presidency further down the line? "I am enjoying my time in politics... I mean business," he said, laughing tantalisingly.

Past scandals have placed future of Tecs in the balance

Christine Buckley on the huge task facing Nick Reilly

Britain's Training and Enterprise Councils, which have an annual budget of £1.4 billion, are on probation. A great deal rides on how successful Nick Reilly is at the helm of the new Training Standards Council.

The appointment of Mr Reilly, who will continue as chief executive of Vauxhall Motors, was confirmed yesterday. The standards council is part of the Government's commitment to shake up the Tecs, which have been heavily criticised for poor standards and patchy performance.

Tecs, which pay private training providers through government funding, have been beset by scandal. In their seven years more than £136 million of public money has been lost in fraudulent and mismanaged payments to the private training providers.

Some payments have gone to companies that have charged for fictitious students and mythical exams as an unwieldy and virtually unaccountable locally based system went unchecked.

Mr Reilly must set out to remove poor performers. He is committed to raising the standards of training provision and believes that the state of training, while good in parts, is putting the UK at a competitive disadvantage against other European countries.

Only a few months ago the Department for Education and Employment (DfEE), which funds the Tecs, was criticised by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) for making £8.6 million worth of "incorrect and uncertain" payments to training providers in 1995-96.

The PAC, the government spending watchdog, berated the DfEE over the apparent ease with which training money can be siphoned off by unscrupulous training providers, leaving Tecs with rocketing bills and would-be students without education.

The DfEE, arguing that effective checks on the system could prove too costly to be worthwhile, admitted that it is "difficult to prevent individuals who wished to perpetrate irregularities from doing so". It said there is "obvious scope for abuse in a system involving 74 Tecs, some 5,000 training providers and 200,000 locations".

The last catalogue of irregularities compiled by the PAC included two "deplorable" cases involving Cumbria Tec and County Durham Tec. In total

£381,000 had been overpaid by the DfEE.

These cases followed a steady stream of scandals. In April last year a senior manager at Sight and Sound, a training provider in Greenwich, South London, was sacked after the discovery of false claims for hundreds of thousands of pounds charged for students who had not taken NVQs. Also last year, police raided the offices of Centrex, a training provider that serves the motor industry.

Three years ago the South Thames Tec went into liquidation after settling vast and unsubstantiated bills from some training providers. Its demise left the DfEE nursing a bill of £8.4 million.

Training fiddles go back to the early days of the schemes. In 1991 Labour pressed the Government to investigate how much Tecs cash was falling to fraudulent schemes. This followed the revelation of an internal memo from the Department of Employment to the Tecs, saying that money was being sought for weeks of training although providers had told the Tecs that students were absent.

The validity of NVQs has also been thrown into question. A National Institute for Economic and Social Research report two years ago doubted that NVQs could be trusted when payment depends on outcomes.

Pressure will also remain on the DfEE to keep a keener check on fraud in a central pool of data. Bizarrely the department began keeping a record of investigations as late as 1995. The PAC said in its last report that it was concerned that only one case had been referred to the police. The DfEE, which has 20 cases on its books at present, said that many irregular payments transpire to be the result of incompetence rather than actionable fraud.

Tecs are being asked to do more with less money. Their funding has been cut from the £2 billion the programme started with in 1990 to £1.5 billion in the last financial year. In the current year it is funded by just £1.4 billion. The cuts have come as the Government reigns back its budget but also in parallel with falling unemployment.

With the challenge of improving standards with reduced funding they will be under greater pressure to operate more efficiently. Stemming the amount of cash that funds mythical training in fraudulent claims would help a little.

Knight's move

THEY all bounce eventually, even if some bounce higher than others. The latest to emerge in the real world from the class of 1997 who graduated with two Ds and an E and the option to retake in five years is Angela Knight. She used to be in charge of banks and building societies at the Treasury, and she will next month take over as full-time chief executive of the snappily titled APCIMS, the trade body for private client stock brokers.

A worthy job, but not hugely

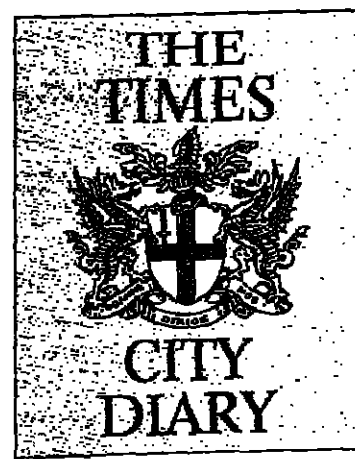
prestigious, surely? Knight has founded two successful specialist engineering companies, and what better time to go for third time lucky? "I sold one engineering company. The other is run by my ex-husband," she says shortly. "I do know a lot about the business, it's true. Having been in the financial field for the past couple of years, I reckoned I would continue in that field rather than go back."

I suspect, although Knight is not saying anything, that the salary offered by APCIMS might be considerably higher than her predecessor, Geoffrey Turner, enjoyed. These are trying times for private brokers, with super-SIB looming on the horizon. They need all the help they can get.

BA's woes at Heathrow are scarcely terminal, so to speak, but a small ad in the Surrey Advertiser catches my eye. "Funerals in the traditional manner with attention to detail." Thus the blurb for Robert Ayling Funeral Services of Guildford.

Vive le hack

NICE to see a journalist do well for once, even a French one. I am prob-



bly not allowed to say that, but there is nothing like the first day back at work to engender a certain misanthropy. BZW has found a new head for its Paris office, to replace Jean-Louis Vinciguerra, who went off to run Crédit Agricole's operations in Indonesia — and what did he do wrong, then? The new man is Philippe Villin, for ten years head of Le Figaro, France's equivalent to The Times. He joins from his own investment boutique.

M Villin is a youthful 42. He graduated from the Ecole Nationale d'Administration, which puts him at the heart of the French establishment, and has spent time at the Treasury and at France Telecom. He is

probably rich — I hadn't the heart to ask. He was described to me as "very French, very tall, very elegant, very charming". Makes you sick, doesn't it?

Wales sighting

CHARLES ANNANDALE, European head of derivative sales at Société Générale, was recently sighted heading west on the M4 with a rather shabby caravan in tow. Barbados, perhaps, after a long swim, or Palm Beach? Oh, the shame of it. Wales.

Annandale, who moved to SocGen last year on an undisclosed but enormous package, is now back at his desk, and colleagues are planning a whip-round for next summer, to pay for a supply of knotted handkerchiefs and a complete set of forearm tattoos.

HAPPY days at the Mirror Group. Monty, alias its chief executive David Montgomery, is finally taking a holiday. Ten days, no less, the longest his terrified subordinates have been deprived of his peculiar style of management charm since he arrived in 1992. Alas, we know not where he is going. Tuscan seems a good bet. Nor yet can we say whether Monty will be packing his bucket and spade. And woe betide the paparazzo who trains his Nikon on the Monty villa. The rich and famous are entitled to their privacy.

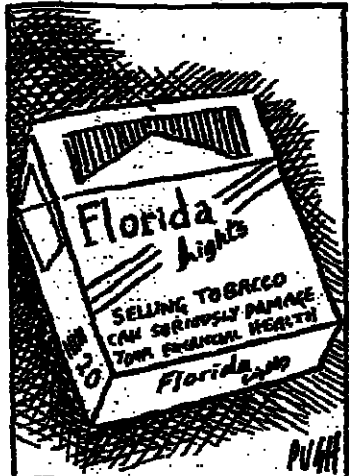
Fair shares

GREG TOMKINS, sorry, I mean Greg Hutchings, has long insisted that shares in the conglomerate he dominates are undervalued. But shares in Hutchings, sorry Tomkins, have under-performed. Now Hutchings and two other directors are playing double or quits. Shares taken as part of 1994's bonus are going into Tomkins' share matching scheme. This pays out one extra share for each still held in two years — providing directors don't sell in the interim.

MARTIN WALLER



Hutchings: double or quits



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Shares retreat in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible]

DEGREE vacancies in science are published here for students chasing courses still available at universities and colleges this autumn.

The listings have been fully updated since they first appeared in *The Times* on Thursday, taking account of those which have been filled but also many unexpected vacancies just announced.

There have been few changes in the science listings in the past 24 hours. New vacancies are being advertised at North London University, but they are more than balanced by withdrawals at Plymouth, Birmingham and King's College London.

The listings will be published until the end of this week. They are also available on our website, at <http://www.the-times.co.uk>.

* Courses are part of modular schemes in a variety of combinations. All other courses are identified by codes used in the Ucas handbook.

AGRICULTURE/AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

Aberdeen, D21, D22, D23, D24, D25, D26, D27, D28, D29, D30, D31, D32, D33, D34, D35, D36, D37, D38, D39, D40, D41, D42, D43, D44, D45, D46, D47, D48, D49, D50, D51, D52, D53, D54, D55, D56, D57, D58, D59, D60, D61, D62, D63, D64, D65, D66, D67, D68, D69, D70, D71, D72, D73, D74, D75, D76, D77, D78, D79, D80, D81, D82, D83, D84, D85, D86, D87, D88, D89, D90, D91, D92, D93, D94, D95, D96, D97, D98, D99, D100, D101, D102, D103, D104, D105, D106, D107, D108, D109, D110, D111, D112, D113, D114, D115, D116, D117, D118, D119, D120, D121, D122, D123, D124, D125, D126, D127, D128, D129, D130, D131, D132, D133, D134, D135, D136, D137, D138, D139, D140, D141, D142, D143, D144, D145, D146, D147, D148, D149, D150, D151, D152, D153, D154, D155, D156, D157, D158, D159, D160, D161, D162, D163, D164, D165, D166, D167, D168, D169, D170, D171, D172, D173, D174, D175, D176, D177, D178, D179, D180, D181, D182, D183, D184, D185, D186, D187, D188, D189, D190, D191, D192, D193, D194, D195, D196, D197, D198, 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PA TO HEAD OF MARKETING

London c.£18,000

English Heritage is the nation's principal advisory body on the built heritage and has direct management of 400 historic properties, the majority of which are open to the public.

As PA to the Head of Marketing, you will provide full secretarial support, including travel arrangements, scheduling meetings, co-ordinating training information and managing personnel files. But this is a more varied role than usual. You will also be making specific contributions to individual marketing projects, liaising with internal groups, senior management and external suppliers such as advertising and market research agencies. You will also manage and maintain the market research information base and be closely involved in improving the flow of information, both internally and externally.

It is essential to have sterling communication skills, shorthand and an analytical mind for the drafting and preparation of reports, minutes and presentations. Strong computer skills will therefore be necessary. Familiarity with marketing would be a distinct advantage.

This is an opportunity for an experienced PA with a keen interest in marketing to take on a varied and responsible position within an interesting and stimulating environment.

In return we offer a non-contributory pension, life cover and free entrance to all English Heritage sites.

To apply, please write with your CV and a covering letter quoting ref no R/114/97 to Sarah Bourne, Personnel Department, English Heritage, Room 409, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB. Closing date: 10th September 1997. Interviews will be held 2nd October 1997.

Unfortunately we are unable to reply individually to all applicants. If you have not heard from us within four weeks of the closing date, please assume that your application has not been successful.

English Heritage is committed to an equal opportunities policy.



ENGLISH HERITAGE

PLANET 24

PA to the Managing Director

Planet 24 is one of the largest and most successful independent television production companies in the UK. Our business interests are expanding and diversifying and now encompass both television and radio in the UK, USA and Eastern Europe.

The Managing Director needs a senior professional PA who understands the needs of a busy executive and can successfully co-ordinate the administrative support required by someone who has a number of different business interests.

The successful applicant will already have experience of working at a senior level and should have excellent communication skills and good word processing/spreadsheet knowledge and experience. **Shorthand is essential.**

Applications should be made in writing to the address below, enclosing a full CV and contact details. Closing date is Monday 8 September 1997.

Personnel Department
Planet 24
The Planet Building, Thames Quay
195 Marsh Wall
London E14 5SG



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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO EUROPEAN VICE PRESIDENT

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Convalet

Located in beautiful surroundings close to Uxbridge, Convalet, a subsidiary of Bristol-Myers Squibb, is a leader in the manufacture and sale of health care products.

They urgently require a pro-active and confident executive secretary with WordPerfect, Excel and Lotus 123 skills to fully support a European Vice President in a wide variety of tasks including co-ordination of meetings, preparation of reports and liaison with all levels of internal and external contacts.

Experience in a European management environment is essential as you will act as co-ordinator for European exhibitions from initiation to completion. Some European travel is involved so a second language would be desirable.

If this sounds like you and you can remain calm and efficient under pressure plus you want to join a progressive company with an excellent benefits package, please call our recruitment consultant.

Maggie de Salis
Uxbridge Employment Agency
4, Windsor Street, Uxbridge,
Middlesex, UB8 3AB or please call
01895 270445
CV's can be faxed to:
01895 274194

PERSONAL SECRETARY

Required for the Head of a thriving, independent educational establishment, located close to Windsor, to commence as soon as possible.

This demanding position calls for a professional person who understands loyalty, integrity and diplomacy and is willing to work long hours. The person appointed will require to be totally committed. A thorough working knowledge of Microsoft Office 97 is a pre-requisite. Neither age nor experience are relevant; energy, dedication and ability are.

The salary will be commensurate with the responsibilities. Other benefits will be advised to interview.

If you are ambitious and looking for a real challenge, send your letter of application, in your own handwriting, together with a detailed curriculum vitae, to The Registrar, Delegation House, 30 Hart Street, Henley on Thames, RG9 2AL, no later than Tuesday, 2 September 1997. Final interviews will be held on Tuesday, 9 September 1997.

PA...PR...PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

If you enjoy communicating, have WP skills and an eye for beautiful things, you would find this post exceptional. It is varied and interesting, working in a congenial, busy atmosphere with the MD/Designer and the small creative team of a prestigious Mayfair company dealing in *objet d'art*.

A stable career history is essential and an understanding of a merchandising or retail environment would be an advantage.

Age 23+. Excellent salary and conditions. Please contact Sophie Morris at Halcrow Days, 14 Brook Street, London W1T 1AA. Tel: 0171-629 8811 or Fax: 0171-409 0290

ASSISTANT TO BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Salary £16,000
We require an Assistant to the Business Development Team to join our dynamic marketing services company. Responsibilities will include producing sales reports and forecasts, maintaining marketing databases and databases records, generating mail merged mailing campaigns and presentations.

This is a fast paced, varied role suited to an outgoing individual with a sound commercial background and excellent administrative skills. Proficiency in all Microsoft Suite applications essential: accurate typing (65 pps wpm) and a ability to liaise and work well under pressure. Please send us your CV to:

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PROACTIVE £25,000 neg

As executive assistant to the senior partner of this financial organisation, you are responsible for ensuring that decisions made at internal committee meetings are actioned. Involvement guaranteed for a senior level graduate PA with committee experience.

Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

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PARTNER'S PA to £24,000

If you are organised, unfappable, flexible and unphased by pressure then you are exactly what this International Legal Company is looking for to support a Partner within finance. 80 wpm shorthand and spreadsheet knowledge required.

Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

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A high profile and involved position where you will offer full support to this senior executive. 10% secretarial work with your own areas of responsibility and liaison at the highest level. Banking or finance experience at board level an advantage.

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VICTORIA £23,000

Plus gym membership. You will be based in the superb offices of this international company which really values its staff. You will be encouraged to use your initiative in this true PA role. 80wpm shorthand / 55wpm typing.

Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

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YOUNG PA £25,000

Involving and challenging role awaits experienced PA working with entrepreneurial Managing Partner. Suit polished professional with effective interpersonal skills who is comfortable in a high profile environment. 55wpm typing.

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Highly proactive secretary required to work for this newly promoted executive. The combination of your superb organisational skills, the ability to juggle your priorities and handle a heavy workload will ensure your success. You will be fully involved in all areas of the business. Skills: WPM and Powerpoint.

Knowledge of a European language is essential. A-levels preferred. Hours: 8.30-6.30. Please call Vanessa Mitchell on 0171 390 7000.



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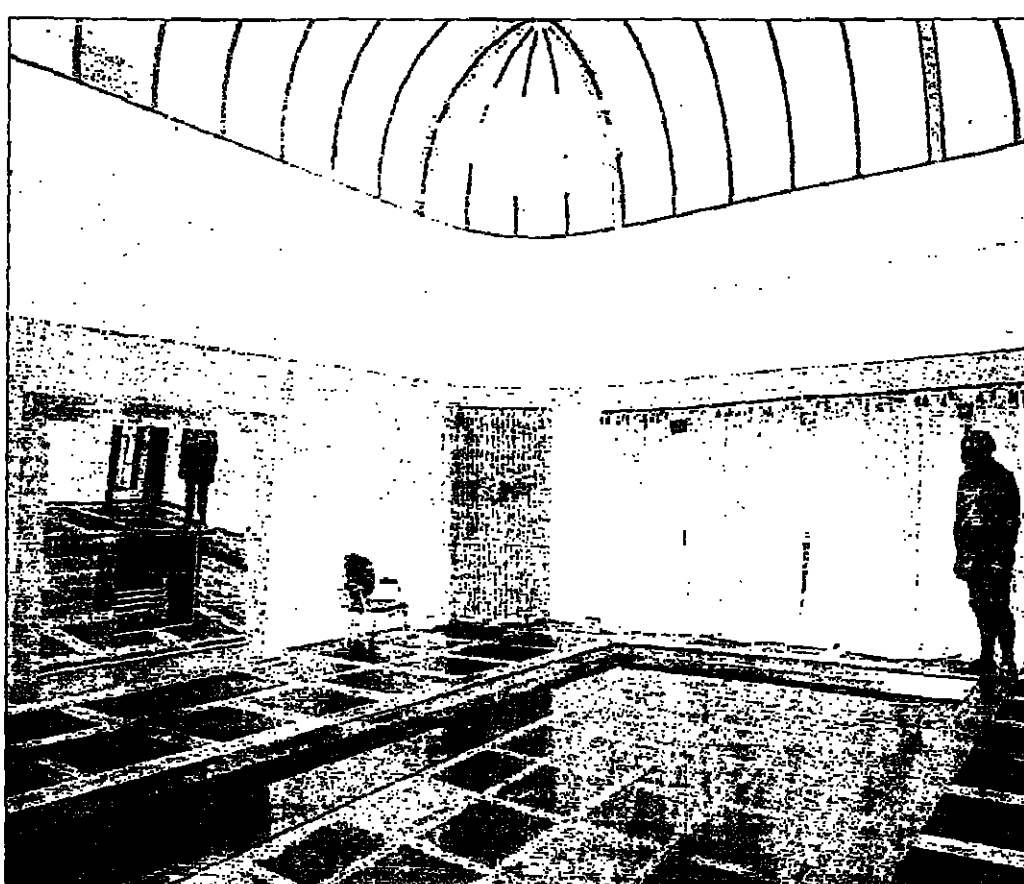
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Superb homes, grand addresses: Palace Green, left, not far from Kensington Palace, on sale for about £5 million, and the ballroom-swimming pool room of 1 Cambridge Gate, yours for £15 million

Amanda Loose on the buyers, rich beyond imagination, who seek properties most of us can but dream of

Millionaire trophies

The lower echelons of the London market may fall quiet over the summer vacation, but that is the time when buyers with big money to spend emerge. The pool of such buyers is a very small one. Grand trophy houses are what they crave, and as the rich seem to get richer, the houses they seek become ever grander. And this season more international millionaires than ever are looking to scoop such a prize.

Brian D'Arcy Clark of Chesterfields confirms that most of the market goes to sleep at this time of year. But the very top end carries on through August.

Louise Egerton of Lane Fox in Chelsea says: "This market is almost climate-driven. Middle Eastern buyers are out in force at the moment, avoiding scorching temperatures at home, and from September 20 to December 10, the Euro buyers, at present in Tuscany or on their yachts in the South of France, will arrive, as will the Americans, now holidaying in Nantucket. We have more millionaire buyers on our books than ever before."

Richard Crosthwaite of Knight Frank says: "More very wealthy buyers are looking here, and the demand for really large houses and apartments is high. There are many more really rich people around than there were five years ago, and our sales of houses worth more than £2.5 million seem to increase each year."

Charles Ellingworth of the buying

agency Property Vision says: "A million pounds won't even buy a six-bedroom family house in Kensington. If you want a large house with garden, think in terms of £3 million." And that is the lower end of the multimillion-pound range.

Nicholas Beane of Beane Pearce says: "The top end of the market tends to divide into three bands: up to £3 million; £3 million to £8 million, and more than £8 million, where the sky seems to be the limit."

Already this summer, Chestertons Residential in Kensington has acquired two houses costing £3 million for UK buyers. Beane Pearce has just had three inquiries for houses up to £10 million in Eaton Square, a departure from the norm, according to Nicholas Beane, who reckons that inquiries for flats in this area have until now outweighed those for grand houses.

The developer Anthony Lassman has also noticed this. "We are seeing a return to a bygone age of grand London living, a style to which very wealthy overseas buyers are used," he says. "People are more lavish now with their use of space, wanting big rooms, dressing areas and

bedrooms with private sitting rooms and staff accommodation."

Mr Crosthwaite knows this sort of buyer well. "Houses which were a satisfactory size three to four years ago are no longer large enough," he says. "Families are getting richer and bigger, and have more staff travelling with them."

"There is a return to the trophy house, a second age of grandeur, but such houses are no longer just playthings or family homes. They have a role in the way international businessmen operate, being used for business meetings and entertaining, as well as showcases for works of art. However rich you think such people are, many are wealthier than one's wildest imaginings."

So what will the very well-heeled house hunter be looking at? One of the first stops will surely be 1 Cambridge Gate, a recently refurbished terrace house in Regent's Park, carrying a £15 million price tag. Built in 1875, the whole terrace has recently been restored, under the eye of Neil Powling of PDM. A 40-room mansion, it has a swimming pool area that turns into a ballroom, eight bedroom suites and its

interior has been designed by some of the top names, including Teska Kennedy and Joanna Wood. It is for sale through De Groot Colles.

Near by, 1 Cumberland Place is for sale for more than £7.5 million with a 69-year lease through Knight Frank. The Grade I listed house, built in 1820 under the direction of John Nash, includes an indoor swimming pool and first-floor ballroom, a must-have for the best kind of corporate entertaining.

Heading south, 19 and 23 Upper Brook Street in Mayfair beckon. Like Cambridge Gate, they have been converted from offices back to single residences and are on the market for £8.75 million and £4.75 million, with 101 and 105-year leases respectively. No 19 — Grade II listed — was built in 1737 and has been home to Lady Herbert, daughter of the Earl of Pembroke. It has a grand first-floor drawing room, which leads to a mahogany-panelled library. Grade II listed No 23, built in 1742, is equally magnificent.

In Belgravia, Knight Frank is selling the Grade II listed 29 Chesham Place

for £10 million. Built by Thomas Cubitt, it was also used for many years as offices, but has retained its grand, fluted Ionic columns in the main drawing room, and the Neo-Classical folly added by Lord Waterlow.

No 112 Eaton Square is for sale through Savills at £12 million. The Grade II* listed house, also designed by Cubitt, has been occupied by the same family for the past 70 years. Savills is also wanting offers around £5 million for 6 Palace Green in Kensington, which has a four-and-a-half-year lease. Ideal, perhaps, for buyers who want to live near Kensington Palace.

For those wanting a less conventional address, The Vineyard, in Hurlingham Road, Fulham — for sale through Aylesford for £6 million — may be the answer. Built around 1860, the Grade II listed house stands in just under an acre of walled gardens, including a woodland walk. Home to the 1st Lord Beaverbrook from 1918, it has remained in the family ever since.

Perhaps the most pricey of the pick of the crop is Aubrey House, Holland Park, which has been on the market for more than a year through Knight Frank. For sale for the first time in 120 years, the freehold property has been reduced by £5 million to £20 million.

Being cool makes a house hot

Morag Preston finds ventilation adds value

As temperatures reach record levels, more and more homeowners are turning to air conditioning. Keeping cool in the office and car is no longer a problem, so why should it be at home? "Comfort cooling is the way of the future," says Gill Lamprell at Knight Frank. "People in the UK are more streetwise, and have travelled abroad more. However, you will still find full-blown air conditioning only in top-of-the-range houses, and I think that will always be the case."

To serve the demands of the increasing number of buyers from the Far East, housing developers here are now installing ventilation as standard. Hidden in a wall, the systems are usually found in reception rooms and master bedrooms. They are especially popular in cities, where people prefer not to open windows because of the noise. "It will add value to your house," says Ms Lamprell.

Costs for installing air conditioning in your own home start at £2,000 a room, although most companies will put together special deals. Multi-split systems allow you to have more than one indoor unit and only one outdoor unit, which costs less, looks better and takes less time to install.

Tim Wilson at A&A Co-Ordinated Services in Kent, advises: "Check whether the price includes installation. Does the quote tell you how powerful the unit is? Can you have a heat pump for the winter?"

Getting permission to put a condenser box on the outside wall of a listed building can be a problem. Rental is usually available only for commercial use, so hiring a small portable unit is an economic alternative. Provided you have a socket and a window just above the system for a flexible hose to fit through, it should cool an area of 250sq ft with a standard 8ft ceiling. Prices start at £850.

A portable evaporative air cooler, at a cost of around £150, is no bigger than a television set. Though it won't lower the temperature, it will throw fresh air into a room, working on the principle of drawing air over water. Doors and windows must be open when it is switched on, which helps to clear the air. Andrew Cohen at the Air Conditioning Company says: "Fixed installation can be unsightly, unless it's a new house and the ducting has been hidden. But putting it in once the house is built is as much of an upheaval as installing heating, and you leave it behind when you sell."

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RENT 01959 561499
Chart Sutton £262,500
Amber Lane. Three 5 bedroom detached homes set in this charming village to the south of Maidstone. Each house benefits from large plot sizes and a country aspect to the rear. (Only one remaining)

East Farnleigh £118,500 to £125,000
The Maltbush and River Lodge. A stunning new riverside development of five 3 bedroom terrace homes and two 2 bedroom apartments, overlooking the Medway. Each property has the benefit of two allocated parking spaces. (Only two 3 bedroom homes remain)

Wimbledon £205,000 to £210,000
Byron Moss, Garfield Road. A small select development of three townhouses offering good sized accommodation close to tube station and bus routes.

Chess £895,000
Cuddington Grange, The Drive. A rarely available executive home overlooking Cuddington Park Golf Course. The property comprises 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, games room and triple garage all set within a plot of three quarters of an acre.

Wimbledon £275,500 to £367,500
Marian Lodge, The Downs. A development of 31 luxury apartments featuring secure underground parking and a fully equipped gymnasium. Located close to Wimbledon Village and with easy access to the A3 for central London. (Only 6 remaining)

Forest Hill from £149,950
Arundel Road. Six 4 bedroom detached properties situated in a small close in village midway between Arundel and Chichester. JUST RELEASED FOR SALE.

Hampshire £195,000 and £269,950
Sunny Two detached 5 bedroom family homes each with approximately quarter acre gardens, on the southern edge of the New Forest. Sway benefits from a mainline station on the Bournemouth / Southampton / Waterloo line. Bournemouth is three miles away, New Milton four and Christchurch nine.

Southampton £250,000 to £260,000
West End, Hampshire. Three detached 5 bedroom family homes set in a commanding position in this favoured residential part of Southampton. Convenient for the M27/M3 and Southampton Parkway railway station.

Worcester £192,000 to £202,000
Elking Alfreds Fields. The final phase of this popular development is now released. We are now offering a range of elegant 3/4 bedroom regency style homes three quarters of a mile from the historic city centre. Showhome opening this weekend.

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River Road Villas. Three classically styled 3 bedroom townhouses with garages and private rear gardens. Surbiton Station (Waterloo approximately 20 minutes) is within walking distance. (Only one remaining)

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Western Road. A most sought-after address. Two individually designed 5 bedroom detached homes. One already sold off plan.

Essex £255,000 to £315,050
High Easter. Nine detached 4 and 5 bedroom houses in a delightful and popular Essex village. Two already sold off plan.

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Mead House. A rare opportunity to purchase a single 5 bedroom detached home with Heath views.

POKEFORD £199,950
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Holybrook. An exciting range of 4 and 5 bedroom houses in the Conservation Area of this pretty village, convenient for both Oxford and Swindon and within easy reach of glorious downland countryside. Sales Centre Now Open. 30% now reserved. Further release now available.

Witney £107,500
Sun Court. A superb development of charming stone-built 3 bedroom townhouses set in a landscaped courtyard close to the centre of this lovely market town. Designed to complement the Conservation Area. (Only 2 remaining)

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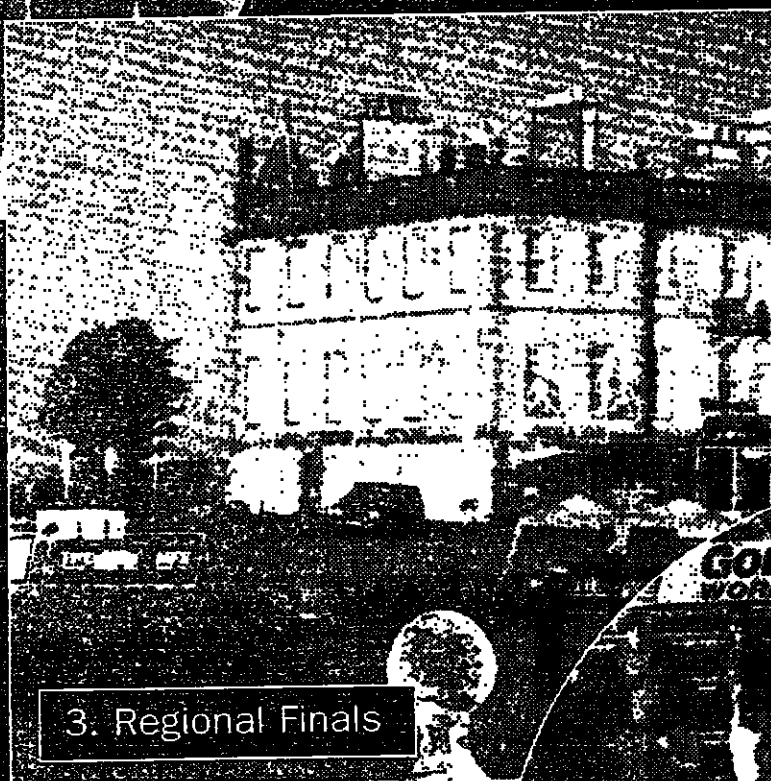
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RACING: STOUTE BELIEVES LAST YEAR'S EBOR WINNER IS IDEAL TYPE FOR FLEMINGTON CHALLENGE

Clerkenwell aims for Melbourne Cup

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL STOUTE, having trained the winner of the Canadian International Stakes, Breeders' Cup Turf, Japan Cup and Dubai Turf Cup in the space of a year, is beginning to set his sights on another jewel in racing's global crown — Down Under.

Since Vintage Crop became the first runner from the northern hemisphere to win the Melbourne Cup in 1993, Stoute has waited patiently for the right horse with which to tackle Australia's most famous race — and now he hopes Clerkenwell, winner of the Ebor Handicap 12 months ago, is up to the task.

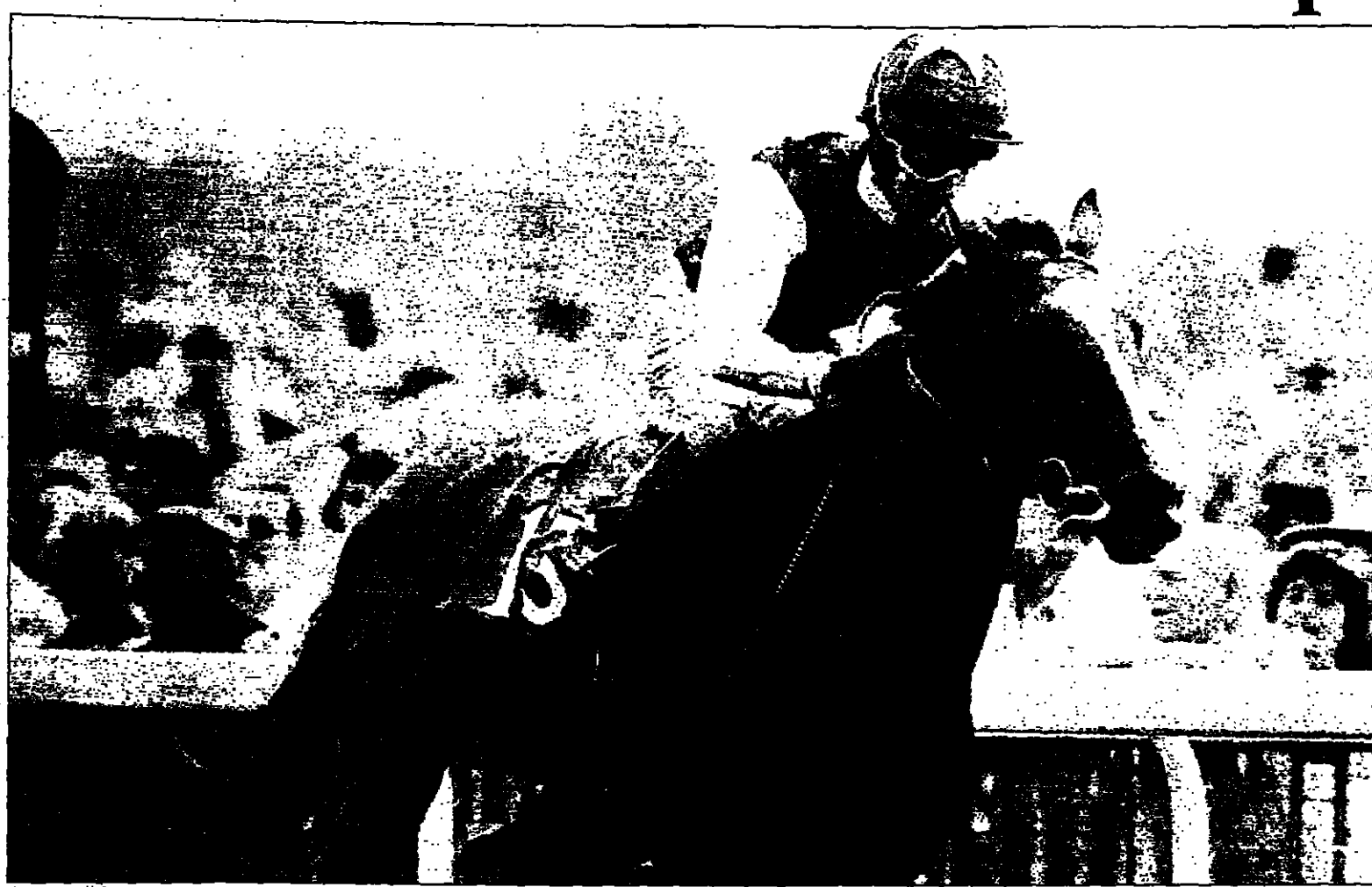
While Stoute's run of international success has confirmed him as an outstanding trainer, the cricket-mad son of

Barbados policeman would love nothing more than to beat the Aussies in their own backyard — especially after the humiliating Ashes defeat this summer.

Clerkenwell has not run this season, but a workout on the Newmarket gallops this morning will decide whether the Sheikh Mohammed-owned four-year-old makes his delayed seasonal reappearance in the Grand Prix de Deauville on Sunday — 24 hours before the weights for the Melbourne Cup are published — or waits for a conditions race at Salisbury next week.

"The plan was to get him going in August but he had a bit of a hold-up. We got a month behind schedule, but he's coming along nicely. I have thought for a while he is the right sort for the race. He has a bit of kick in him and my information is that you don't want a one-paced galloper in the Melbourne Cup; they are too vulnerable."

Significantly, Jack Brown, head of "at Stoute's yard, looked in at Sandown racecourse on the outskirts of Melbourne, where the European horses are stabled, during a holiday in the spring and gave a favourable report to the Newmarket trainer.



Clerkenwell, last season's Ebor winner, could reappear at Deauville on Sunday before tackling the Melbourne Cup. Photograph: Paul Barker / PA

If all goes according to plan, Clerkenwell will have a minimum of two runs before travelling to Australia — accompanied probably by Classic Cliche and Harbour Dues — for the two-mile handicap at Flemington. In the meantime, Stoute is playing a straight bat. "We want to wait and see the publication of the weights before we get too excited," he said.

Entrepreneur, who partnered Clerkenwell in a gallop last week, is continuing to show his wellbeing and Stoute will make a decision this weekend where the 2,000 Guineas winner will run for the first time since his disappointing effort behind Benny The Dip in the Derby.

"We are getting him in stronger work all the time now and he is moving really well again. It took a lot of time to loosen him up and get the tightness out of his right quarter."

The Prix du Moulin at Longchamp on September 7 and the Irish Champion Stakes six days later are two

options. Desert King, also owned by Michael Tabor, is pencilled in for the Leopardstown event so that could result in Entrepreneur tackling the French race — if he is ready in time.

"His work this weekend will be important. He won't run until we are really happy with him and he's back to peak fitness. We are happy with his movement, now it is a question of getting him fit."

Folklore helps Dettori keep narrow lead

FRANKIE DETTORI was able to maintain his narrow lead in the jockeys' championship yesterday as he and Kieren Fallon rode a winner apiece at Ripon. The Italian now has a 125 to 123 advantage over his chief rival in the race for the title, which he won in 1994 and 1995.

A change of tactics and venue helped Dettori's mount, Folklore, successfully defy top weight in the Mark Birch Celebration Nursery. The filly, second at Beverley and Sandown previously, also had to overcome a supposedly unfavourable high draw, starting from stall 16, in the five-furlong event to beat Fair Removed by 2½ lengths.

"She is very sharp and has always shown plenty of speed, but she's been running over some of the stiffest five furlongs in the country," Ricky Bowman, representing trainer David Loder, said. "We felt we should use her speed to advantage this time rather than holding her up and she did it nicely."

Fallon was forced to work much harder to win on Cumbrian Cadet in the Racing Channel Maiden Auction Stakes. He switched his mount from the centre to challenge on the stands' rail and then had to be at his strongest to catch Cool Prospect close home.



Fitzgerald: fine sequence

rides — at Huntingdon yesterday, completing a sequence of nine winners. Fitzgerald's agent, Dave Roberts, said: "The run began with Irie Mon at Market Rasen on August 5, followed by the first three races at Stratford on August 16 and then Irie Mon again at Market Rasen on Saturday. The winners have been achieved for seven different reasons."

The record for successive winners is 12, set by Sir Gordon Richards in 1933. The last jockey to come near that mount was Phil Tuck with ten during September 1986, a figure also achieved by Johnny Gilbert in 1959.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Ripon
Going: good to firm.
2.30 (5) 1. CUMBRIAN CADET (K Fallon) 2.20 Cool Prospect (K Fallon) 3.00 Kieren Fallon (K Fallon) 4.10 Take A Risk (A. Kinane) 4.40 Stratford Gold.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.10 Love Again.

CARLISLE

THUNDERER
2.10 Golden Thunderbolt. 2.40 Tajrebah. 3.10 Kaimati. 3.40 Double Arrow. 4.10 Take A Risk. 4.40 Stratford Gold.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.10 Love Again.

WORCESTER

THUNDERER
2.00 Fabulon. 2.30 My Harvinsk. 3.00 Wingspan. 3.30 Amridge. 4.00 Honeybed Windsor. 4.30 Galassian Jane. 5.00 Regal Absence.

BRIGHTON

THUNDERER
2.20 LADY LAPHOAG (nap) 3.50 Silver Marble. 4.20 Mystical. 4.50 Village Native.
Timekeeper's top rating: 4.50 VILLAGE NATIVE.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.50 VILLAGE NATIVE.

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Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.50 VILLAGE NATIVE.

3.20 QUEEN'S PARK CENTENARY CHALLENGE CUP

(Handicap: £3,098; 7f 214yd) (15 runners)
1 (2) 6-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
2 (3) 0-00000 DESERT KING (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
3 (4) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
4 (5) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
5 (6) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
6 (7) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
7 (8) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
8 (9) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
9 (10) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
10 (11) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
11 (12) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
12 (13) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
13 (14) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
14 (15) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
15 (16) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67

3.50 GORING MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES

(3-Y-O; £2,277; 6f 110yd) (10 runners)
1 (2) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
2 (3) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
3 (4) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
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13 (14) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
14 (15) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
15 (16) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67

4.20 ARTHUR BOWEN KING MEMORIAL HANDICAP

(3-Y-O; £3,018; 2f 214yd) (10 runners)
1 (2) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
2 (3) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
3 (4) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
4 (5) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
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13 (14) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
14 (15) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
15 (16) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67

4.50 HANNINGTONS OF BRIGHTON HANDICAP

(£3,582; 5f 59yd) (11 runners)
1 (2) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
2 (3) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
3 (4) 0-00000 KILNINE (F) (K Fallon) W Hedges 4-10-9 S Dwyer 67
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4.50 HANNINGTONS OF BRIGHTON HANDICAP

(£3,582; 5f 59yd) (11 runners)
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EQUESTRIANISM

Britain look to restore their golden reputation

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

THE Great Britain showjumping team, which has not won a championship since 1989, will attempt to correct that record when it competes at the biennial European showjumping championships, which begin today in Mannheim, Germany. The team competition involves a speed leg tomorrow and a Nations Cup contest on Friday. The individual championship is decided on Sunday.

Fourteen teams are competing, with Germany, the world and Olympic champions, Switzerland, the winners on the past two occasions, and Holland, winners of the Aachen Nations Cup in June and runners-up in Rotterdam last weekend, the favourites.

Britain, unbeatable in three successive European championships from 1985 to 1989, have conspicuously failed to recapture that form in recent years. They were sixth in the 1994 world championships and eleventh at the Olympic Games in Atlanta last summer. That humiliation prompted the British Showjumping Association to introduce selection trials to ensure an in-form team for these championships.

A superb Nations Cup season — which has included wins in Modena, Windsor, Gijón and Bratislava — has raised hopes of success this week. John Whitaker, on Virtual Village, who won the Aachen grand-prix in June and is one of the favourites for individual honours this week, heads the five riders from which the team of four will be chosen. Michael Whitaker, Robert Smith and Di Lampard, the first three in the trials, together with Geoff Billington make up the five. Ronnie Massarella, the team manager, will decide which rider to drop after the warm-up classes today. It will not be an easy decision.

Billington has one of the

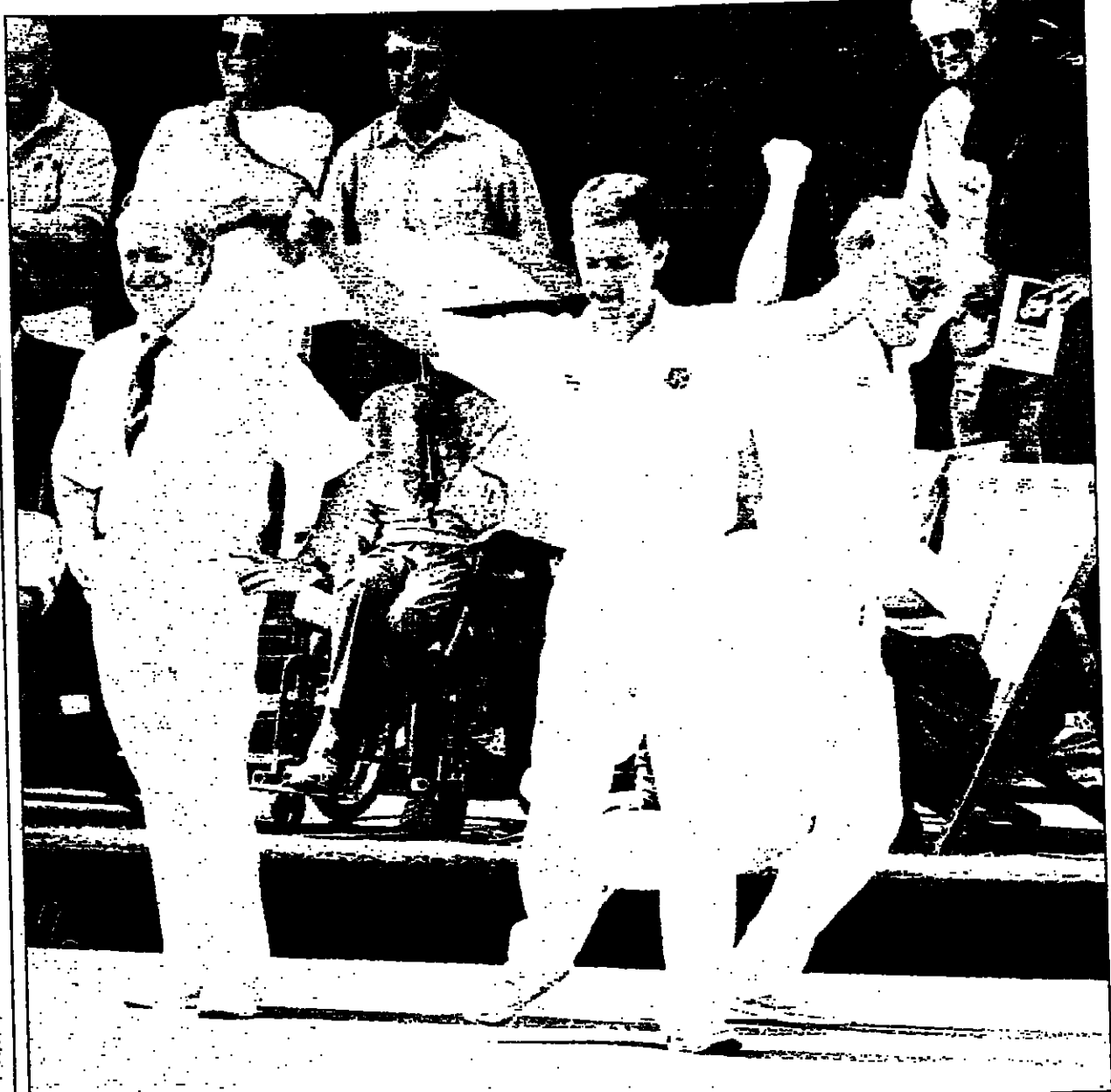
most able horses on the circuit in Mrs. Ours, but the rider makes the odd error of judgment. Michael Whitaker and Ashley were disappointing in Aachen, but underlined their form with a clear round in the Rotterdam grand-prix last weekend.

Smith won the Dublin grand-prix on Tees Hanover, two weeks ago and has also shown consistent form on Orthos, most recently in Rotterdam, where they had only four faults in the Nations Cup. Lampard, the trainer of the gold medal-winning Britain team at the European party championships last month, was seventh in Dublin on Abberval Dream, and also had four faults in the Rotterdam Nations Cup.

If Lampard is selected, it will be the culmination of a seven-year quest for her and Robert Verburg, the owner of Abberval Dream. The Irish-bred gelding was bought as a three-year-old from Ireland after Verburg's wife, Dina, dreamt that a horse they owned won a medal for Britain.

Although the German team, which pulled out of the last European championships because of the poor going, is weakened by the absence of injured world champion, Frank Sloothaak, it is still a formidable force. Ludger Beerbaum, ranked No 1 in the world, is the mainstay, backed up by Lars Nieberg and For Pleasure, members of their Olympic gold medal-winning team.

Switzerland are sixth in the Nations Cup series, but have a habit of peaking at leading championships. Their team includes Willi Melliger, with the majestic Calvaro, winners of the Olympic individual silver medal. They, together with John Whitaker, Beerbaum and Hugo Simon, Austria's dual World Cup-winner, are leading contenders for the individual gold medal.



Andy and David Baxter, right, celebrate a narrow victory in the pairs competition at Worthing yesterday

Baxters get the measure of Burgess

BY DAVID RYAN JONES

THIRTY seconds has never seemed so long as it did at Beach House Park, in Worthing, yesterday when, after three hours and ten minutes of his pairs quarter-final, Grant Burgess called for half a minute's grace before a final measure was applied.

With the scores tied at 18-18 after the full 21 ends, an extra end was required and the four players clustered their bowls around the jack to such effect that six lay within a foot and nobody could tell who held the winning shot.

Burgess, an England player from the Gilt Edge club, had played two almost perfect shots, but his opposite number, Andy

Baxter, who helped Wigton to win the triples on Saturday, had replied with even closer bowls.

The very last bowl of the end, delivered by Burgess, leant on the nearest Worcestershire bowl, canning it towards the jack, but failed to tip it over, so Burgess invoked a rarely-used law, which allows 30 seconds to elapse after the last bowl comes to rest before a measure is taken.

Even spectators counted the seconds off and, as soon as the time was up, Dave Baxter, the Wigton lead, and brother of the skip, ripped in to prop the enemy bowl, lest it should topple during the measure.

On to the stage stepped the umpire, Terry Patrick, from Hornchurch, to adjudicate

and immediately reached for a neat pair of callipers. With every eye upon him, he exhibited the sang-froid that Sir Francis Drake must have shown on Plymouth Hoe and pronounced the Cumbrian closer than the Worcestershire wood by less than an eighth of an inch.

Results 38

Stuart McCaughtrie and Burgess drooped visibly, but the Baxter brothers whooped it up, having qualified for the semi-finals today with two single-shot victories.

Earlier, against John Hornes and Peter Lundy, the Baxters had gone into the last

end with the scores tied at 13-13 and were several shots down when Andy Baxter stepped on the mat to bowl his penultimate wood.

"I hadn't caught the back-hand all morning, but this time I found it perfectly," he said. His attacking bowl picked up the jack and carried it several yards, staying with it and frustrating Lundy, who had enjoyed great success with his retrieval attempts, but this time failed to hit his target.

This morning, the Cumbrian pair will play Bryan Taylor and Tony Kempster, of Northumberland, while Shaun Nutman and Adam Tidby, from Dorset, will take on Nigel Cordy and Dale Wilson, of Lincolnshire, in the other semi-final.

BOWLS

Hawes and Price take title for England

BY GORDON DUNWOODIE

KATHERINE HAWES and Mary Price duly won the pairs gold medal for England at the Atlantic Rim championships in Llandrindod Wells yesterday, maintaining their two-point advantage through the final two rounds with wins over Argentina and the United States.

Unlike earlier rounds, in which they had carried all before them, Hawes and Price had to survive some anxious moments in both matches. Against Maria Canzani and Maria Cabrera, of Argentina, the England pair recovered from 7-10 down at nine ends to win 25-14.

However, the real drama came in the final game against Olga Gomez and Anne Barber, of the United States, who had won only five of their previous 12 games. The United States pair unexpectedly established a 9-0 lead and, after 12 of the scheduled 21 ends, had increased their advantage to 13-3.

With the world champions, Phillis Nolan and Margaret Johnston, of Ireland, beating South Africa on the adjacent rink, the England pair knew they needed at least a draw to take gold. The revival began slowly, but, on the eighteenth end, they picked up four shots to lead 15-14. A single, followed by a penultimate end six gave them an eight-shot lead on the last, where they were content to surrender a double and finish 22-16 winners.

Nolan and Johnston held on to defeat Jo Peacock and Laura Prigwell, the defending champions, 20-16, to take the silver medal on shot aggregate ahead of Jean and Anne Simon, of Guernsey, who beat Spain 25-10.

In the triples, Kathy Pearce, Sarah Mansbridge and Betty Morgan kept the home supporters happy when they beat Namibia 21-8 to win the gold medal. Jersey won the silver by defeating Holland 23-7. Israel, needing victory over Scotland to secure the gold, finished without a medal when Isobel Myers, Arlene Rubin and Maureen Hirschowitz lost 15-9 — a result that gave Scotland the bronze.

IN BRIEF

Gibbs has extra time to prove his fitness

SCOTT GIBBS and Wayne Proctor have been given until tomorrow to prove their fitness to play for Wales in the rugby union international against Romania at Wrexham on Saturday.

Neither Gibbs nor Proctor was able to take part in squad training yesterday, but Kevin Bowring, the coach, said: "We have a number of options in both positions. I don't want to put any pressure on Scott and I won't risk him if there is any danger of long-term damage."

Cricket: Steve and Mark Waugh are both included in the Australia squad for the Hong Kong sixes tournament at the end of next month. Steve Waugh will captain a squad that also includes Brendon Julian, a member of the Australia squad that has retained the Ashes, and Andrew Symonds, the former Gloucestershire batsman.

Boxing: Nigel Wention, of Liverpool, will meet Giovanni Parisi, of Italy, the World Boxing Organisation lightweight champion, in Rome on October 4. Wention, 28, joins Lennox Lewis, Nicky Piper and Carl Thompson, who are all boxing for world titles that night.

Snooker: Highland Spring, the mineral water supplier, is the sponsor of the Scottish Open, a world ranking tournament, to be staged in Aberdeen next February. The deal guarantees prize funds for the event totalling more than £1 million for the next three years with £60,000 of this season's £350,000 purse to be pocketed by the winner.

Cricket: The Cricket Foundation has awarded £2.5 million to all 38 British county boards as part of a development programme to increase participation, standards of play, coaching, grounds-ship, umpiring and scoring.

American football: Five British cities — London, Manchester, Sheffield, Birmingham and Edinburgh — have been earmarked as venues to stage Arena football, a version of the game, when a European League is created in 1999.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Boris Schapiro, bridge correspondent of *The Sunday Times*, is still playing a strong game at the age of 86. Along with Chris Convery, Craig Gower and Wayne Chu he won the South Africa team championships in May. He was alert on this hand from the event.

Dealer West	North-South game	IMPs
♠ Q 8 7 6 3	♠ 9 8 5	
♥ 9 8 5	♥ K 8 7	
♦ K 5	♦ 9 2	
♣ 4	♣ Q	
♠ K J 10 7 6 3	♠ J 10 8 6 4	
♥ 5 2	♥ Q 8 7 6 2	
♦ J 10 9 4	♦ A K J 10 5	
	♥ A 4 2	
	♦ A Q 3	
	♣ A 3	

Contract: Six Spades by South. Lead: Jack of clubs

After Boris had opened a sporting Three Hearts on the West hand, North-South bid themselves into Six Spades, with South showing first-round control of hearts on the way. Due to the unfortunate mirror distribution of their cards, eleven tricks looks the limit of the hand. However, declarer did the best he could by taking two rounds of trumps and all the minor-suit winners ending in hand. He then led a low heart towards dummy's 9 8 5.

Boris could see that the only chance for the defence was that the declarer had three hearts. If they were A Q 2, clearly declarer would have arranged to play hearts from dummy after the elimination of the side suits — that way he could lead the nine and run it to West, ensuring his contract. Hence Boris could deduce South's hearts were only A x x. So he went up with the king of hearts, thus swallowing his

partner's queen (a manoeuvre known as the "Crocodile Coup").

Now he continued with the jack of hearts and declarer had to lose a second trick in the suit. Had West played small on the first round of hearts, East would have had to win and concede a ruff and discard.

The Four-Stars Teams competition at the EBU summer congress in Brighton was won at the weekend by David Price, Gunnar Hallberg, Lionel Wright and Colin Simpson, of London.

For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge Challenge, call the organisers on 0181-942 9506.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- BAM
- A tent
 - A fruit
 - A bang
- FUNDI
- Grass
 - The Princess of Wales
 - A trestle

- BUNRAKU
- Salt prawns
 - Puppetry
 - Indonesian class system
- GERENUK
- A missile
 - An ice tent
 - An antelope

Answers on page 42

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Internet Olympiad

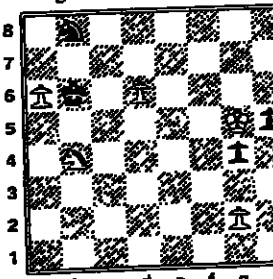
Concurrent with the Mind Sports Olympiad at London's Royal Festival Hall an Olympiad chess competition was also held on the Internet. The winner was Jonathan Schroer, from the United States. Here is one of the winner's games plus another attractive victory in a gambit opening.

White: Schroer
Black: TadasG
Mind Sports Olympiad
Virtual Chess, August 1997

Queen's Gambit Declined

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 1 d4 | d5 |
| 2 d4 | e6 |
| 3 Nf3 | Nf6 |
| 4 Bg5 | Bc7 |
| 5 e3 | O-O |
| 6 Nc3 | Nbd7 |
| 7 Rc1 | b6 |
| 8 cxd5 | Nxd5 |
| 9 Nxd5 | cxd5 |
| 10 Be7 | Qc7 |
| 11 Rc7 | Qb4+ |
| 12 Qc2 | Qa4 |
| 13 b3 | Na6 |
| 14 Bb3 | Nb8 |
| 15 O-O | Bc5 |
| 16 Bxa6 | Rac8 |
| 17 Rf1 | Rac7 |
| 18 a4 | Rc8 |
| 19 Rc7 | Rc7 |
| 20 Qe2 | Rc1+ |
| 21 Qxa6 | Rc1+ |
| 22 Qf1 | Kf8 |
| 23 Kd1 | Ke7 |
| 24 Ke2 | Nd7 |
| 25 Nc2 | is |
| 26 is | Kd6 |
| 27 Kd3 | bxa4+ |
| 28 e4 | dxe4+ |
| 29 bxa4 | Kd5 |
| 30 Nxa4+ | Kd5 |
| 31 Nc3+ | a6 |
| 32 Kc4 | Nf6 |
| 33 b4 | bxa5 |
| 34 a5 | Kd6 |
| 35 bxa5 | Ng4 |
| 36 Na4 | Nh2 |
| 37 Ne5 | |

Diagram of final position



White: FuLinHyu

Black: Clammer

Mind Sports Olympiad

Virtual Chess, August 1997

Danish Gambit

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1 e4 | e5 |
| 2 d4 | exd4 |
| 3 c3 | cxd3 |
| 4 Bc4 | Oe6 |
| 5 Nc3 | Bc5 |
| 6 Nf3 | c6 |
| 7 Be3 | Bxe3 |
| 8 he3 | b5 |
| 9 O-O | Qh6 |
| 10 e5 | Qa3+ |
| 11 Bb3 | Qa3 |
| 12 Kh1 | Na6 |
| 13 Nh4 | Qa5 |
| 14 Qf3 | Qc7 |
| 15 Ra1 | g6 |
| 16 Qh5+ | g5 |
| 17 Ng5 | Rg8 |
| 18 Nxf7+ | Kd8 |
| 19 Ng6 | d5 |
| 20 Qe8 | checkmate |

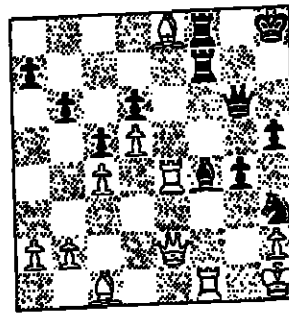
Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Osnos — Juchtmann, USSR 1969. In this complex middlegame position White is counting on his pin against the black rook on f7. How did Black now prove that his own threats were the stronger?

Solution on page 42



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Simon Wilde weighs up prospects for the county season's closing stages

Grace's championship set for last hurrah

With the dust settling, if not quite settled, on the summer's international cricket, the county game can expect to command the stage for most of the remaining four weeks of the season. The NatWest Trophy final takes place at Lord's on September 6, but either side of it are two rounds of matches in the Britannic Assurance championship.

It is appropriate that the championship should be protected from distractions during its closing stages. For many of the game's followers, it is an integral part of English cricket. It has been going as an official contest for 107 years and unofficially for many more than that. It is only lately that Test cricket's primacy over county cricket has been generally accepted.

Part of the interest in the championship's final weeks will be precisely because this principle is likely to be sanctified when the members of the England and Wales Cricket Board vote on its management board's blueprint for the future playing structure.

The proposal is that from next year the championship be divided into three conferences of six teams, with each side playing 12 "league" games and two play-offs. There appears to be no prospect of the competition staying the same. Two divisions seems the likely alternative. Either way, the path to radical change has been taken.

This may be no bad thing for the England team, but it could be for the championship and county out-grounds, where the fabric of the game is richest. Critics of the championship accuse it of attracting only pensioners with Thermos

flasks, but this has never been the case at festival venues such as Abergavenny, Cheltenham and Ilford.

It is to these appreciative places, perhaps, that the final matches should be sent. Instead, the last three rounds are scheduled, exclusively, at county headquarters, which will sport many empty seats.

Yet two of tomorrow's matches are on out-grounds and both are important fixtures. The one at the United Services Ground, Portsmouth, sees Kent, the bookmakers' favourites, take on Hampshire without their strike bowler, Martin McCague, who has broken down with a back complaint. Kent may miss him on what is usually a batsman's pitch — it helped Hampshire to avoid defeat by Yorkshire last week — against opponents

in touch with the leaders, though tailoring the pitch to help the bowlers might only play into the hands of the Middlesex attack, among whom Tufnell should be full of confidence. Worcestershire expect Haynes and Spence to have shaken off injuries.

Glamorgan, the leaders, face the stiffest task of the five leading contenders. They must play Gloucestershire, whose captain, James Whitaker, bravely refuses to discount his side's chances, on their own patch at Grace Road. Glamorgan may be without their own captain, Matthew Maynard, who dislocated a finger during the victory over Northamptonshire that took them back to the top. Morris, however, will be available.

Gough, who has not played since incurring the knee injury that put him out of the last two Test matches almost a month ago, is to test his fitness in the nets prior to Yorkshire's game with Lancashire at Old Trafford. He is optimistic of playing, though Moxon is still unavailable because of back trouble. Lancashire, of course, will be without wherewithal who has taken the week off to consider his future.

Gloucestershire have resisted recalling their most experienced batsmen, Lynch and Wright, for the visit of Nottinghamshire, but David Lawrence, muscle problems overcome, has declared himself ready to bring his ample presence to the party.

It would be appropriate if Gloucestershire, the team of W.G. Grace, who did more than anyone to popularise county cricket, were to win this last "old-fashioned" championship.

More likely, they will come unstuck next week at Canterbury and, while attention will indeed turn to the West Country during the last round of matches, it will focus not on Bristol but Taunton, as Glamorgan breast the tape.



Waqar Younis will give Glamorgan a vital cutting edge over the next few weeks

THE RACE FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP									
	P	W	L	D	Bat	Bowl	Pts		
GLAMORGAN	13	6	2	5	37	41	189		
KENT	13	6	4	3	32	45	187		
GLoucestershire	13	6	3	4	29	44	181		
YORKSHIRE	13	5	2	6	28	44	170		
WORCESTERSHIRE	13	4	1	8	35	40	169		

Glamorgan: Lancashire (Leicester), Surrey (the Oval), Essex (Cardiff), Somerset (Taunton).

Kent: Hampshire (Portsmouth), Gloucestershire (Canterbury), Yorkshire (Headingley), Surrey (Canterbury).

Gloucestershire: Nottinghamshire (Bristol), Kent (Canterbury), Warwickshire (Edgbaston), Lancashire (Bristol).

Yorkshire: Lancashire (Old Trafford), Worcestershire (Headingley), Kent (Headingley), Derbyshire (Derby).

Worcestershire: Middlesex (Kiddeminster), Yorkshire (Headingley), Derbyshire (Worcester), Hampshire (Southampton).

GLAMORGAN

Glamorgan began impressively — they had the better of Warwickshire and Yorkshire in rain-soaked games and beat Kent at Canterbury — and have looked good since. Their position in the table has never been lower than sixth. On paper, they have the best-balanced side experience and youth, stacks of positive batting, a potent new-ball attack and complementary types of spinners. The irony is that they were dismissed for 31 by Middlesex at Cardiff in June and that Croft, sole batsman away with England, and Cooker last took wickets in the same championship innings on May 17. Their time may come. More likely still, it will come for Waqar Younis, the overseas recruit who has already won ten games that others could not and who has trophy bonuses written into his contract. Arguably, they have the easiest run-in and Waqar may be expected to turn up the heat when he faces his previous county at the Oval.

Man to watch: Waqar Younis. Last championship: 1989. Batting: 13-5.

KENT

In their desire to recapture the golden days of the Seventies, Kent have unceremoniously dumped several yeoman of Albion — among them Ealham, Denness, Tavaré and Cowdrey — but it would surprise the Band of Brothers now if the alchemists proved to be a New Zealand coach (John Wright), a Zimbabwe overseas player (Paul Strang), a wicketkeeper-captain (Steve Marsh) and a top five with fewer runs this summer than England. It could happen: a side who responded to leading the table in mid-June by losing to Durham have apparently calmed their nerves. The batsmen no longer leave the runs to the lower order. McCague, when fit, continues to make incursions with the new ball and Strang with the old, while Ealham rarely lets a match go by without leaving his mark. Fitness and the scars of the past permitting, Kent should be thereabouts at the end, but there is the toughest finale.

Man to watch: Mark Ealham. Last championship: 1979. Batting: 6-5.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Gloucestershire have been the championship dark horses this season, but, with their history of tripping up in the home straight, they could yet turn into the Arks. In March, no one gave them a chance. Symonds, their best batsman, was not returning, neither was Walsh, their spearhead fast bowler and captain. Alleyne was handed the leadership only after Russell quibbled over terms. There was a lack of glamour, but, within three matches, it was clear that there was no shortage of guts. Their batsmen may have made fewer runs than Kent's, but Smith's swing bowling has been influential and Alleyne, Young, Walsh's impressive deputy — and Russell inspirational. Twenty years ago, Gloucestershire needed only to beat Hampshire at home to be crowned official champions for the first time, but unaccountably lost. If they beat Kent, they might convince themselves and others that this is finally their year.

Man to watch: Mark Alleyne. Last championship: Never won. Batting: 7-2.

YORKSHIRE

If Yorkshire are to win the championship again, these might be the right circumstances: coming up on the rails, with no time to contemplate the significance of winning a first title in 22 years and getting all those former players off the team's back. Yorkshire were tipped to do well before the season, but, after two early victories, they went six weeks without another; three home wins on the trot have brought them back into contention. Their batting is carried by Lehmann, the reliable and sometimes brilliant import, but at full strength their last-bowling attack ought to be formidable. A partnership of Gough and Hutchison — the first of the season — could tip the remaining fixtures in Yorkshire's balance, in which case their catching and better be sharp. Last year, it is them down as they lost three successive games to unlikely opposition and blew their chance. Choking remains the main danger.

Man to watch: Paul Hutchison. Last championship: 1965. Batting: 14-1.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Worcestershire, alone of the contenders, have been here before. Seven of the side — Curtis, Hick, Illingworth, Lampitt, Leatherdale, Newport and Rhodes — are veterans of the team that took the title in 1988 after winning six of their final eight fixtures, a late charge that has since been something of a club specialty. The past five matches were won to secure second place in 1993 and, astonishingly, only four weeks ago Worcestershire languished in fourteenth place, albeit with games in hand. Since then, they have outplayed Kent and Warwickshire and beaten Northamptonshire and Glamorgan. Moody leads the side imaginatively. Curtis is having an outstanding first season, the bowling is varied and resourceful. Even when they were only drawing matches, the side sometimes played well in their first home game, they dismissed Lancashire for 69. They must remain "hot" if they are to see off Middlesex and Yorkshire.

Man to watch: Tom Moody. Last championship: 1989. Batting: 14-1.

Lighting up time as Sussex press the switch

By IVO TENNANT

SUSSEX are hoping to attract a capacity crowd this evening for the first competitive floodlit match to be played in England on a ground not used for Test cricket. About 5,500 spectators are expected to fill the deckchairs, temporary seating and barbecue area for their Axa Life League match against Surrey.

The match is the second floodlit fixture to be fulfilled this season, after Warwickshire's triumph over Somerset on a rainy evening at Edgbaston last month. A crowd of 15,000 attended, resulting in a profit of about £70,000. Sussex will not be able to match that, because Hove is a much smaller ground, but Tony Pigott, the chief executive, said a profit was guaranteed — weather permitting.

The forecast is for rain on the South Coast this morning, clearing by mid-afternoon. Sussex have taken out an insurance policy in the event of an abandonment and have covered the cost of the five floodlights — installed by the same firm used at Edgbaston — through sponsorship that is worth £40,000.

Pigott himself had the idea of staging this fixture as a floodlit encounter. "Surrey are the ideal opponents, as they planned to hold the first day-night match," he said. "The dew at this time of year is a bit of a problem, so we will drag a rope across the outfield between overs and when batsmen are out. There are always one or two residents who complain about noise, but the local council has been supportive."

The reaction from our members has been fantastic. They have not objected to our plans for each batsman to come in to music and for a jazz band to perform on the outfield before the start and between innings. The Army will be demonstrating how to build a tank and we will stage a bowling competition for children.

Surrey will be without Graham Thorpe, who is injured, but Ian Salisbury hopes to be fit to play against his former county.

Pigott said he would know in about three weeks' time whether Shane Warne, the leg spinner, who returned to Australia yesterday with the Ashes touring party, would be joining them next season.

Final offers new chance for Payne

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

IAN PAYNE, the Shropshire captain, will put aside past disappointments when he leads his side out at Lord's in the MCC Trophy final today against Norfolk.

Payne, the former Surrey and Gloucestershire all-rounder, has waited 18 years to appear in a Lord's final, having been twelfth man three times for Surrey — and, in 1979, as a member of the county staff, he watched them lose the Benson and Hedges Cup final to Essex from the Mound Stand.

Indeed, he might never have been granted the pleasure; he almost retired four years ago. "At that time, I took voluntary redundancy from my job and we moved from near Wimbledon to enjoy Welsh country life," Payne said. "It was a perfect decision. I planned to get my golf handicap down and had no serious intention of playing cricket again."

Payne succeeded Mark Davies as the Shropshire captain in midsummer and now presides over a county that will be playing in its final final today. Four of his squad have not previously been to Lord's, even as spectators.

Norfolk, on the other hand, have had greater success of late, but Paul Newman, their Worcester-based captain, believes that there is little to choose between the two counties. Norfolk last won the MCC Trophy 11 years ago and will need all of Newman's experience of five Lord's finals if they are to succeed today.

Bedfordshire will secure the eastern division title if they secure six points from the game against Northamptonshire that starts on Sunday.

Searchers after swing put faith in sugar solutions

BOWERS will try anything to help the ball swing. Bortle tops, Vaseline and hair lacquer have all been surreptitiously applied down the ages. Now word is spreading of an aid that assists swing bowling without contravening the laws — bottled fruit sweets.

The theory runs thus: sucking the sweets stimulates production of saliva with a high sugar content, which, when rubbed on to the ball, leaves the desired coat of polish on its surface. It is shadier than usual, as well as harder to remove. Law 42.5, referring to unfair play, permits bowlers to polish the ball as long as no time is wasted and "no artificial substance is used". Saliva, as the bowlers' union will argue, is a natural body fluid and has, like sweat, been utilised for years.

When the supply at one county ran out, the twelfth man was dispatched to the nearest newsagents to replenish stocks. Being health-conscious, he returned with four packets of low-sugar sweets and was promptly sent back to the shop.

Identity crisis
The Birmingham League is facing extinction after 109 years, according to Barrie Middleton, the secretary. The Warwickshire Cricket Board (WCB) wants to integrate it into a county-wide structure and Middleton fears refusal to agree to the plan could result in the loss of WCB and sponsorship funding.

He believes that the five Warwickshire-based clubs in the 12-strong league will be approached independently by the WCB if the Birmingham



League declines to join en masse at an emergency meeting next month. "We will lose our identity if we go into this new league, but we could lose our very existence if we decide to go it alone," Middleton said.

Cover girls

The front of the September issue of *Inside Edge* has five heads of cricketers figures transplanted on to the bodies of the ubiquitous Spice Girls. The cast reads: Lord MacLaurin as Posh Spice, Ben Hollis as Baby Spice, Tim Lamb as Ginger Spice, David Lloyd as Sporty Spice and, naturally, Nasser Hossain as Scary Spice. "It is our response to the MacLaurin Report," Charles Frewin, the magazine's publisher, explained. "Our coverage is a little more serious inside. What, even more serious?"

Scholarship boy

The most gifted young cricketer in Antigua, Robert Joseph, a 15-year-old all-rounder, has been awarded a scholarship for three years at Sutton Valence School. This is the first award of its kind to be given by the school and has

been set up in consultation with Richie Richardson, the former West Indies captain, who is playing for Lashings, a club side in Maidstone.

Warne under fire

Criticism of Shane Warne among Australians has switched from his antics on the balcony after the Trent Bridge Test to his wish to play county cricket next season. Indeed, if the words of Malcolm Knox in the *Sydney Morning Herald* are typical, Warne may decide that a return to England in 1998 is not worth the aggravation.

"Can Warne, or anyone advising him, seriously contemplate a season of wrenching his joints on damp county grounds?" Knox asks. "What good would it do him to ping down the lower order at Durham or Kent with a bunch of idiot soccer fans screaming at him? It will be remembered as an act of ill-advised greed that shortened a great career."

Foreign parts

Keith Fletcher has always struggled with names. Explaining that Ronnie Irani had gone for homeopathic injections to cure his side injury in time for the NatWest Trophy final on September 6, Fletcher, the Essex coach, could not recall whether the all-rounder was in Munich or Zurich. Irani has been in the German city, in fact, but then Fletcher can be forgiven for thinking of Zurich, given that he answered to the nickname of "Gnome" throughout his career.

FATHER TIMES

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Date	Company name	Venue	Score
3 JUL	BRIDON INTERNATIONAL	HICKLETON	137
7 JUL	DFDS TRANSPORT LIMITED	STOKE BY NAYLAND	142
10 JUL	DUDLEY STATIONARY LIMITED	FRINTON ON SEA	138
11 JUL	THE LLOYD GROUP	HADLEY WOOD	133
5 AUG	TCA BUILDING CONSULTANCY	KNEBTHORP	139
8 AUG	SCIENTIFIC GLASS LABORATORIES LTD	GREENWAY HALL	146
13 AUG	ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE PLC	HAWKSTONE PARK	143
14 AUG	ALLIED DUNBAR (YORK)	EASINGWOLD	152
14 AUG	SKIPTON BUILDING SOCIETY	SKIPTON	149
14 AUG	AVON INSURANCE PLC	STRATFORD UPON AVON	146
14 AUG	RIDGONS LTD	KINGS LYNN	115
14 AUG	PATTON GROUP	GALGORM CASTLE	115
15 AUG	CITY FINANCIAL PARTNERS LTD	WENTWORTH GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	163
15 AUG	BOYD & LLOYD OFFICE SUPPLIES LTD	TRACY PARK	154

Date	Company name	Venue	Score
15 AUG	N H S UK	DALMAHOY	152
15 AUG	DERRY LANDSCAPES & GARDEN DESIGN	FOREST PARK	168
15 AUG	ALEXANDER & PARTNERS	KINGS ACRE	134
15 AUG	NAT WEST BANK- OXFORDSHIRE CBC	PHILFORD HEATH	132
16 AUG	BRITISH MIDLAND	BLUE MOUNTAIN	137
17 AUG	ADMIRAL INSURANCE	GOWER	141
18 AUG	COOPERS & LYBRAND	MALONE	130
19 AUG	PROFESSIONAL SYSTEMS PERSONNEL LTD	BRANSTON	146
19 AUG	PERPLAS	BURNLEY	147
19 AUG	MARKS & SPENCER PLC	DENHAM	147
19 AUG	DANIEL SMITH	COPTHORNE	129
20 AUG	WHITE & CO CHARTERED CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS	ACCRINGTON	152
20 AUG	LOGMOOR LTD	KINGS NORTON	147
20 AUG	BURY & WALKERS	WOODSOME HALL	135
21 AUG	PARK NELSON	SUNNINGDALE	137

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY AUGUST 27 1997

Fighting a running battle against anorexia

John Goodbody reports on the alarming number of young women athletes with eating disorders

An alarming number of British women runners are suffering from anorexia or bulimia, threatening their health and their athletic careers. Preliminary results from a survey by Leeds University of more than 200 leading runners show that at least eight per cent have had treatment for eating disorders, a figure eight times higher than average for the age group in question. Athletes have spoken to *The Times* about their own psychological distress and changing-room gossip of girls eating pills to stop them feeling hungry.

Runners World has set up a national advice centre, urging athletes to write to the magazine under strict confidentiality so that they can get help and share information with fellow sufferers.

The British Athletic Federation (BAF) is also establishing a panel, which is waiting for lottery funding, to help competitors in distress. Dr Malcolm Brown, the BAF's chief medical officer, said: "There is a problem and it is something that we are trying to tackle."

Dr Angie Hulley, of the centre for studies in PE and sports science at Leeds University, sent questionnaires to the top-ranked 50 competitors in the 800 metres, 1,500 metres, 3,000 metres, marathon and cross-country to find out how many British athletes have suffered from eating disorders. Of the 80 per cent who replied, 81 per cent admitted they had had treatment. However, Dr Hulley, who represented Britain in the marathon at the Olympic Games in 1988, said that this percentage might underestimate the scale of the problem. Although anonymity was assured, people with eating disorders were often loath to tell others.



Thomson, like many athletes with eating disorders, was attracted by "another way to lose weight"

Several runners were happy to talk to *The Times* about their experiences of anorexia, however. Rachel Nicholson, 19, from Berkhamstead, in Hertfordshire, who was a first reserve for the 1996 British junior cross-country team, was admitted to St Ann's Hospital, Tottenham, at the end of last year. She weighed only 52 1/2 lb, a drop of nearly 25 lb in 18 months. Rachel stayed in the hospital for three months and still attends as a day patient twice a week, while she rebuilds her life.

Her determination to improve her performance drove her to lose weight. Although her parents and coach frequently warned her that she was losing too much weight, they were unaware how acute the disorder had become. She said: "You do become extremely secretive in your eating, such as taking packed lunches with you and not eating them. I just thought it was worth it for my athletics career."

Her last race was the English Schools 3,000 metres in 1996, when she weighed 62 1/2 lb. "I had become really unhappy and withered," she said. "I begged people to allow me to compete, but gradually I began to realise that the situation had become serious. Although I was not training at a club, I still wanted to lose weight. The stomach becomes so accustomed to not consuming food that you feel bloated if you eat a proper meal."

Nicholson now believes she has "turned the corner" and has established a normal eating pattern. She is about to start a university course in travel and tourism and hopes one day to restart her athletics career.

Lucy Hassell, 19, a member of Britain's women's junior cross-country team in 1995 and 1996, attended a Somerset clinic last year, where she was only allowed out of bed if she was in a wheelchair, so acute was her condition of anorexia nervosa. She wrote to the BAF in September 1996, saying that although she did not blame the governing body for her situation, she felt that it was "necessary to suggest that female athletes in this age group should undergo a compulsory medical before selection for the long and short-term health of Britain's athletes is not jeopardised by unhealthy body weights. The incidence of eating disorders in young female athletes is high and is easily disguised in the commitment to training and lifestyle that is necessary when competing at this level."

Women who are psychologically prone to eating disorders, or are already suffering from them, are often attracted to athletics. Trudi Thomson, from Dunfermline, Scotland, is typical. She had bulimia nervosa before she began running seriously at the age of 31.

Thomson, now 38 and an international marathon competitor, believes that running was another way to lose weight. "I have an addictive nature," she said. "I got on the stage that every time I put food in my mouth, I felt I ought to exercise."

However, she now finds the sport has helped her in her struggle against the condition. "I began to realise that when my performances were down, it was because I had not eaten properly. You can't compete on an empty tank."

The BAF accepts that it has some responsibility towards the athletes. Its panel, consisting of the British Olympic Association, a representative of the Eating Disorders Association, Dr Hulley and Brown himself, will try to make coaches, athletes and their families more aware of the problems.

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Nicholson hopes to resume her athletics career after turning the corner in her struggle against anorexia

THE TIMES

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THE LEADING 100 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET GAME

Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts
1	M J S 1 (M Squares)	24433	51	Sam's The Star 3 (S Samson)	23181
2	Mow And Go (M John)	24432	52	The Band Played On (M Foot)	23173
3	Orford M & O (M John)	24432	53	Hunter (A Fraser)	23169
4	The Tans (P Collins)	24432	54	Friday Night (M Foot)	23169
5	Dawn Dynamics (M O'Brien)	24432	55	Sudbrook Park (C Fraser)	23169
6	Dawn's Dependence (D Tabor)	24432	56	Ward's Wicket (M Foot)	23169
7	Wendell House 3 (P O'Shea)	24432	57	Barney Boys (M Foot)	23169
8	Portus (M Clark)	24432	58	Barney Boys (M Foot)	23169
9	Fantasy Formik (G Cuthbert)	24432	59	Fantasy Formik (G Cuthbert)	23169
10	Nine on Behalf (M O'Brien)	24432	60	Alta Angels (M Foot)	23169
11	The Tans (P Collins)	24432	61	Alta Angels (M Foot)	23169
12	Dawn's Dependence (D Tabor)	24432	62	Alta Angels (M Foot)	23169
13	Braine Team (Hewson)	24432	63	Alta Angels (M Foot)	23169
14	Braine Team (Hewson)	24432	64	Alta Angels (M Foot)	23169
15	Kato's Corbin (A Kato)	24432	65	Alta Angels (M Foot)	23169
16	Fantasy Formik (G Cuthbert)	24432	66	Alta Angels (M Foot)	23169
17	Hunter (A Fraser)	24432	67	Alta Angels (M Foot)	23169
18	Hunter (A Fraser)	24432	68	Alta Angels (M Foot)	23169
19	Hunter (A Fraser)	24432	69	Alta Angels (M Foot)	23169
20	Hunter (A Fraser)	24432	70	Alta Angels (M Foot)	23169
21	Hunter (A Fraser)	24432	71	Alta Angels (M Foot)	23169
22	Hunter (A Fraser)	24432	72	Alta Angels (M Foot)	23169
23	Hunter (A Fraser)	24432	73	Alta Angels (M Foot)	23169
24	Hunter (A Fraser)	24432	74	Alta Angels (M Foot)	23169
25	Hunter (A Fraser)	24432	75	Alta Angels (M Foot)	23169

FIXTURES

Football

League One: 1st round, 1st leg. 1st round, 2nd leg. 2nd round, 1st leg. 2nd round, 2nd leg. 3rd round, 1st leg. 3rd round, 2nd leg. 4th round, 1st leg. 4th round, 2nd leg. 5th round, 1st leg. 5th round, 2nd leg. 6th round, 1st leg. 6th round, 2nd leg. 7th round, 1st leg. 7th round, 2nd leg. 8th round, 1st leg. 8th round, 2nd leg. 9th round, 1st leg. 9th round, 2nd leg. 10th round, 1st leg. 10th round, 2nd leg. 11th round, 1st leg. 11th round, 2nd leg. 12th round, 1st leg. 12th round, 2nd leg. 13th round, 1st leg. 13th round, 2nd leg. 14th round, 1st leg. 14th round, 2nd leg. 15th round, 1st leg. 15th round, 2nd leg. 16th round, 1st leg. 16th round, 2nd leg. 17th round, 1st leg. 17th round, 2nd leg. 18th round, 1st leg. 18th round, 2nd leg. 19th round, 1st leg. 19th round, 2nd leg. 20th round, 1st leg. 20th round, 2nd leg. 21st round, 1st leg. 21st round, 2nd leg. 22nd round, 1st leg. 22nd round, 2nd leg. 23rd round, 1st leg. 23rd round, 2nd leg. 24th round, 1st leg. 24th round, 2nd 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The silence of suffering

Blonde beauties and their various beasts

What a phrase, an August Bank Holiday makes. Three new series and not a comedy compilation in sight. After such a breadless summer, these are riches indeed. So rich in fact that I think we better start at the low calorie end of things — to avoid indigestion.

Television does not come more lightweight than *Vets in Practice* (BBC1). It's not quite snowflakes and kittens and warm woolen mittens time, but it's got most of my favourite things. Cats, dogs, horses and an array of highly trained, intelligent blondes. I remember going through a phase when I truly believed that real life would be just like that one day. Then I met a highly trained, intelligent blonde — who was allergic to animal hair. It was time for plan B.

But enough introspection. On television the words "blonde" and "vet" mean only one thing: Trude, the Norwegian who may have put

the phwoar in *fjord*, but is best known, of course, for jabbing the needle through the kitten — several times. But that was before she qualified. Now, as the title suggests, she's in practice and last night we were privileged to witness her first patient, an incontinent rabbit. "My thigh feels warm. I wonder why?" observed Trude, whose English phrasebook has prepared her for such occasions.

It soon became clear, however, that I was wrong about the words "blonde" and "vet" meaning only one thing. As well as Trude in Bristol, they also mean Emma in Dulverton, Julie in Bulth Wells... Indeed, there are now so many telegenic blondes running around that it took Steve — tall, dark and creatively subterranean in Lancaster — the best part of 15 minutes to get on screen. His first patient was also a rabbit, but it died under anaesthetic. He cheered himself up with some

cavalier banter ("one-and-a-half to two weeks is the natural length of a relationship") and by adopting three stray kittens which he realised would be around for rather longer. The practice nurses sighed and thought he was lovely.

They were happy to play along with the film cameras that had turned up with their new vet. So too was Bertie Ellis, Julie's extravagantly whiskered new boss in Mid Wales, who initially seemed colourful and charming but would later stand accused of being patronising. Julie is not the sort of woman to cheer herself up with cavalier banter, so instead went off to put down a collie with cancer. Very soon we were as miserable as she was.

Down in Devon, Emma was in double trouble. Not only had her first emergency patient died overnight (a post mortem would later reveal that it was not her fault) but

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

the colleague she had called in to assist had firmly shut the door on the camera crew. Mind you, she was a brunette.

Too frivolous, do you think? Maybe so, but that's the future of television for you where foreign affairs will be presented by Ulrika Jonsson and society's ills dealt with by Mark Little. Never mind the future, the latter arrived last night with Little, sometime Neigh-

bours star and *Big Breakfast* presenter, hosting *The Feel Good Factor* (Channel 4).

"Don't panic, it's not the one politicians keep going on about," announced Little. "It's about you and the difference you can make." I felt a warm glow. Bloody rabbit.

The programme gives the impression of being rather good television. It's well-intentioned: each week it plans to address a particular social issue in an engagingly specific way. Last night the subject was crime, so Little was sent to particular trouble spots in Sunderland and Merthyr Tydfil, to see what was already being done and what more could be done, particularly by the communities themselves. Answer — precious little, at least in Sunderland where just two people turned up for a meeting to launch a new neighbourhood watch scheme.

Therein lies the problem. Little may get the mix of gravitas and

irreverence about right but the programme itself is quick, slick... and utterly superficial. Last night it also developed an engaging habit of producing statistics that contradicted its own headlines. How many elderly people knew they could get financial assistance to install home security devices? Most of them, as it turned out.

On BBC2, *Bully: Stricks and Stones* will stay in the memory both for the harrowing content and for a cinematic device that was simply breathtaking. Up until then Kate Bromne, the director, had been telling the immensely moving stories of four teenagers who had committed suicide after suffering bullying at school.

Each story was told by a mix of parents and friends and followed a soon-to-be familiar course. The happy child they knew and loved,

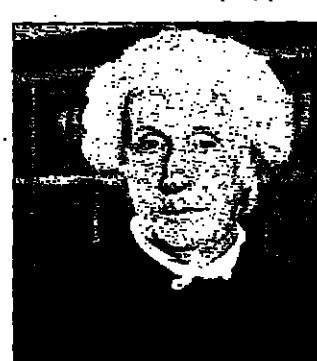
the change in them after they started being bullied and eventually what happened when they could take no more. After three heart-breaking accounts, I wasn't sure I could take any more.

The fourth began in identical fashion — a mother, with pink-rimmed eyes, telling of the day she came home, shouted upstairs but got no answer, found her daughter, the empty paracetamol packet, the agonising wait for her child to die of liver damage in hospital. Except... Louise didn't die — the next voice we heard was hers and it was marvellous to hear it. Later, we would hear still more, as she made a positive and enlightening contribution to the first *Bullying Survival Guide* (BBC2).

Some would accuse Bromne of being manipulative or melodramatic, but I thought it was inspired and justified, bringing a positive note to a film that without it would have had no happy endings at all.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am *Business Breakfast* (75737)
6.30am *Breakfast News* (70195)
9.00am *Breakfast News Extra* (7589178)
9.20am *Ready, Steady, Cook* (7) (5870466)
9.50am *Eastenders* (7) (7676553)
10.20am *Put It to the Test* (5739824)
10.45am *Carry On* (7) (7587118)
11.00am *News* (7) (Regional News and weather) (2578889)
11.05am *Good South* (7) (2639260)
11.50am *Good Neighbours* (328943)
12.00am *News* (7) (Regional News and weather) (4141689)
12.05pm *Wipeout* (7) (7539373)
12.35pm *Neighbours* (7) (1625943)
1.00pm *News* (7) and weather (73282)
1.30pm *Regional News* (5858106)
1.40pm *Columbo: Requiem for a Felling Star* (7) (8708195)
2.50pm *Outlaw* (3730392)
3.40pm *Popeye* (7) (6139111) 3.45 *Peter Pan and the Pirates* (7) (6139111) 3.50 *The Thunderbirds* (7) (2033331) 4.20 *Police TV with Tony Hart* (2018659) 4.35 *Price of Atlantis* (7) (3193468) 5.00 *Newsround* (7) (2203089) 5.10 *Byker Grove* (7) (3147602)
5.35pm *Neighbours* (7) (108701)
6.00pm *News* (7) and weather (114)
6.30pm *Regional News Magazine* (468)
6.58pm *The Nation's Favourite Children's Book* (50458)
7.00pm *Mastermind* The last semi-final from the Old Laundry Theatre, Bowness-on-Windermere. Magnus Magnusson quizzes contestants on the life and 18th-century of William Collins, the city of Prague, the *Discworld* novels of Terry Pratchett and the Tudor conquest of Ireland (7) (8114)
7.30pm *TW Time Machine* Clips from the *Tomorrow's World* archive, featuring children's far-fetched visions of a robot-controlled future, including the flying car. Last in series (7) (350)
8.00pm *Eastenders* (7) (7676553)
8.30pm *The National Lottery Live* (7) (418089)
8.45pm *Points of View* (7) (424640)
9.00pm *News* (7) (Regional News and weather) (4534)
9.20pm *Midnight Lottery Update* (689824)
9.30pm *French and Saunders* (7) (46553)
10.00pm *Inside Story: Our Man in Britain* (7) (229176)
10.50pm *Match of the Day* Desmond Lynam presents highlights of two of tonight's Premiership fixtures, including Everton v Manchester United at Goodison Park (4327973)
12.00am *The Finest Hour* (1991) Rob Lowe stars in this action-adventure as an American Special Forces recruit whose intense romantic rivalry with fellow trainee Gale Hansen is disrupted by the outbreak of the Gulf War. Directed by Shimon Dotan (551338)
1.40am *Weather* (2023831)

- BBC2**
- 6.00am *Open University: Data About Data* (5291963) 6.25 *Operating Systems* (1913480) 6.50 *Problems with Patterns* (5851282)
7.15pm *See Hear Breakfast News* (7) (5611263)
7.30pm *Talestables* (7) (4012485) 7.55 *Postman Pat* (7) (1200737) 8.10 *Raccoons* (7) (106350) 8.35 *The Really Wild Show* (7) (5273755) 9.05 *Mighty Max* (7) (5210292) 9.30 *Smart* (7) (7676911)
10.05pm *Smurfs: Adventures* (7) (5721089)
10.25pm *Fireman Sam* (7) (4001718) 10.35pm *Bump* (7) (2716824) 10.45 *Talestables* (7) (503640) 11.15 *Awash with Colour* (500553)
11.45pm *Animals and Old Lace* (1944, b/w) with Gary Grant, Jean Adair and Josephine Hull. Screenplay based on the hit Broadway play, about two sweet little old ladies who lure lonely men to their home and poison them. Directed by Frank Capra (87242973)
1.40pm *Open University: The Kingdom of the Ice* (5291963) 2.05 *The Kingdom of the Ice* (5291963) 2.30 *The Kingdom of the Ice* (5291963) 3.00 *News* (7) (2010737)
3.05pm *Modern Times: The Partners* A behind-the-scenes look at department store chain John Lewis (7) (4155756)
3.55pm *News* (7) (Regional News and weather) (7638805)
4.00pm *The World in His Arms* (1952, b/w) Period melodrama with Gregory Peck telling of Russian conscript Ann Baylt, with Anthony Quinn. Directed by Ray Whelan (8744114)
5.40pm *Birds with Tony Sopar* (288911)
6.00pm *Star Trek: The Next Generation* Commander Riker catches a deadly bug and falls into a coma (7) (519244)
6.45pm *Bully: I Just Want It to Stop* Three Oxfordshire children describe their experiences at a school which has adopted a controversial new anti-bullying policy (290892)
7.25pm *Bullying: A Survival Guide* (7) (516640)
7.35pm *The Phil Silvers Show* (b/w) (422224)



Actor Richard Wilson (8.00pm)

- HTV**
- 6.00am *GMTV* (7243911)
9.25pm *Win, Lose or Draw* (7) (5864505)
9.55pm *Judge Judy* (7) (5725331)
10.20pm *News* (7) (6527479)
10.25pm *Regional News* (7) (5619350)
10.30pm *Countdown* (1967) *Space drama* with Robert Duvall, James Caan and Jeanne Tripplehorn. Directed by Robert Altman (7)
12.20pm *Regional News* (7) (4130553)
12.30pm *ITN News* (7) (1611640)
12.55pm *Shortland Street* (7) (1625331)
1.25pm *Home and Away* (7) (1463492)
1.50pm *Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman* Drama series about a strong-willed female doctor on the American frontier in the 1850s. Dorothy is faced with a life or death decision (1230592)
3.20pm *News* (7) (2027027)
3.25pm *Regional News* (7) (2026359)
3.30pm *Tots TV: Hopping* (7) (2515881) 3.40pm *Ticket to Ride* (6115331) 3.50pm *Cartoon Time* (6144843) 4.00pm *The Animal Show* (2612843) 4.10pm *Chatterbox Pines* (7) (2027027) 4.20pm *Art Attack* (7) (2040409) 4.40pm *Sabrina the Teenage Witch* (7) (2025824)
5.10pm *Highway to Heaven* (2159824)
5.40pm *ITN News* (7) (292737)
6.00pm *Home and Away* Finally agrees to the book publisher's offer (7) (476814)
6.25pm *HTV Weather* (455824)
6.30pm *The West Tonight* (534)
7.00pm *Emmerdale* Lisa finally finds the love and affection she is looking for (7) (3282)
7.30pm *Coronation Street* Newly single mother Sally takes stock of her life and makes a surprising decision (7) (718)
8.00pm *Inspector Morse: Masonic Mysteries* Morse is arrested on suspicion of murder (7) (7) Followed by *National Lottery* Result (1911)
10.00pm *News at Ten* (7) (92244)
10.30pm *Regional News* (7) (755331)
10.40pm *Best Seller* (1987) with James Woods, Brian Dennehy and Victoria Tennant. A former policeman turned budding writer decides to collaborate with a hired killer to ghost his autobiography. Directed by John Flynn (1816738)
12.30am *am Jody Horowitz Reports* (7696916)
12.40pm *Movie Club* (7648022)
1.15pm *Real Stories of the Highway Patrol* (455954)
1.40pm *Master Kingstreet's War* (1972) Adventure with John Saxon, Tippi Hendren and directed by Percival Rubens (654003)
3.20pm *News and Jury* (7692304)
3.40pm *F1: Belgian Grand Prix* (7697683)
4.35pm *The Time, the Place* (7078933)
5.00pm *Coronation Street* (46864)
5.30pm *News* (19331)



Kevin Whately, John Thaw (8.00pm)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25pm *A Country Practice* (1696331)
1.30-2.30pm *Mac About Mac* (1200992)
5.10-6.40pm *Shortland Street* (2159824)
6.25-7.00pm *Central News* (42308)
12.30pm *White Hot* — The Mysterious Murder of Thelma Todd (24949)
2.15pm *Focus* (732493)
3.00pm *Emergency!* (76383)
3.30pm *The Good Sex Guide* (7673009)
4.25pm *Central Joffreyer* (7) (816022)
5.20pm *Asian Eye* (576041)
- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:
12.55pm *Home and Away* (306602)
1.20pm *Emmerdale* (7029176)
1.50-3.20pm *Carry on Spying* (1230992)
5.10-6.40pm *Home and Away* (2159824)
6.00-7.00pm *Westcountry Live* (32176)
- MERIDIAN**
- As HTV West except:
10.30am *Cartoon Time* (2711379)
10.40pm *David the Gnome* (3282596)
11.00am *Cartoon Time* (4197398)
11.25pm *BraveStarr* (4173718)
11.50pm *Dinosaurs* (9495824)
1.50pm *Summer Crafts* (9641176)
2.20-3.20pm *Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman* (8429331)
5.10-6.40pm *Home and Away* (2159824)
6.00pm *Meridian Tonight* (282)
6.30-7.00pm *The Village* (534)
10.30pm *Meridian News and Weather* (779911)
10.45pm *The Pier* (792521)
11.15pm *Highlander* (192834)
12.10am *Meridian Masterclass* (8815848)
- ANGLIA**
- As HTV West except:
10.30am *Cartoon Time* (2711379)
10.40pm *David the Gnome* (3282596)
11.00am *Cartoon Time* (4197398)
11.25pm *BraveStarr* (4173718)
11.50pm *Dinosaurs* (9495824)
1.50pm *Summer Crafts* (9641176)
2.20-3.20pm *Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman* (8429331)
5.10-6.40pm *Home and Away* (2159824)
6.00pm *Meridian Tonight* (282)
6.30-7.00pm *The Village* (534)
10.30pm *Meridian News and Weather* (779911)
10.45pm *The Pier* (792521)
11.15pm *Highlander* (192834)
12.10am *Meridian Masterclass* (8815848)
- S4C**
- Starts: 6.00am *Sesame Street* (68447) 7.00pm *The Big Bang* (52914008) 9.05pm *Saved by the Bell: The New Class* (7653350) 9.35pm *Baywatch* (52914008) 10.00pm *Early, Indiana* (4470553) 10.35pm *The Crystal Maze* (3625398) 11.35pm *The Big Bang* (52914008) 12.30pm *Ricki Lake* (50027) 1.00pm *Stef Melnick* (6555350) 1.15pm *The Toad* (6555350) 1.30pm *Some Will, Some Won't* (2420431) 3.30pm *Here's One I Made Earlier* (640) 4.00pm *Beethoven* (447) 4.30pm *A Game of War* (76502) 5.30pm *Countdown* (911) 6.00pm *Newyddion* (65283) 6.05pm *Hero* (371440) 6.30pm *Hell on Wheels* (65283) 7.00pm *Robel y Cwm* (15791) 7.25pm *Ysgol Jones* (15047) 8.00pm *Ma Hen* (7244) 8.30pm *Newyddion* (65283) 9.00pm *Plane Crazy* (5973) 9.00pm *Brookdale* (603114) 10.35pm *Babylon 5* (857008) 11.30pm *Reveals' Big Night Out* (50627) 12.30pm *Vic* (31434) 12.30am *Cybil* (80938)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.00am *Sesame Street* (68447) 7.00pm *The Big Bang* (52914008) 9.05pm *Saved by the Bell: The New Class* (7653350) 9.35pm *Baywatch* (52914008) 10.00pm *Early, Indiana* (4470553) 10.35pm *The Crystal Maze* (3625398) 11.35pm *The Big Bang* (52914008) 12.30pm *Ricki Lake* (50027) 1.00pm *Stef Melnick* (6555350) 1.15pm *The Toad* (6555350) 1.30pm *Some Will, Some Won't* (2420431) 3.30pm *Here's One I Made Earlier* (640) 4.00pm *Beethoven* (447) 4.30pm *A Game of War* (76502) 5.30pm *Countdown* (911) 6.00pm *Newyddion* (65283) 6.05pm *Hero* (371440) 6.30pm *Hell on Wheels* (65283) 7.00pm *Robel y Cwm* (15791) 7.25pm *Ysgol Jones* (15047) 8.00pm *Ma Hen* (7244) 8.30pm *Newyddion* (65283) 9.00pm *Plane Crazy* (5973) 9.00pm *Brookdale* (603114) 10.35pm *Babylon 5* (857008) 11.30pm *Reveals' Big Night Out* (50627) 12.30pm *Vic* (31434) 12.30am *Cybil* (80938)
- CHANNEL 5**
- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz.
- 6.00am *5 News Early* (7229060) 7.30pm *WideWorld* (52914008) 8.00pm *Harvest* (52914008) 8.30pm *Victims* (52914008) 9.00pm *The Wind in the Willows* (7237244) 9.30pm *Sticks Around* (52914008) 10.00pm *Exclusive* (7) (9425737) 10.30pm *Land of the Lion* (7) (8377050) 5.30pm *Pet Rescue* (7) (911)
6.00pm *Snail* (7) (2534737) 11.50pm *Double Espresso* (3315468) 12.00pm *The Bold and the Beautiful* (7) (2398008) 12.30pm *Family Affairs* (7) (5264701)
1.00pm *5 News Update* (7) (2204027) 1.05pm *Sunset Beach* (7) (1245293) 2.00pm *5's* (5264701)
3.30pm *Bachelor Mother* (1952) A single salesgirl (Ginger Rogers) causes a scandal when she is persuaded to adopt an abandoned baby. With David Niven. Directed by Garson Kinn (5081176)
5.00pm *Move on* Fast-moving game show (7) (7206783)
5.30pm *100 Per Cent* The game show without a host (5264027)
6.00pm *5 News* (7) (5614640)
6.30pm *Family Affairs* Jack can't sleep, through guilt (7) (5605992)



Condors at rest (8.00pm)

- 8.00pm Last Flight for the Condor** How the cattle ranchers in the Ecuadorian highlands have helped to preserve the condor (7244)
- 8.30pm Brookside** It's judgment day for Leanne in court and Christian tries to persuade Rachel to become a stay-at-home wife (7) (6379)
- 9.00pm Someone Else's Child** (1994) Drama with Lisa Hartman Black as a woman fighting for custody of her biological child, who she discovered was switched at birth. Directed by John Power (7) (1599114)
- 10.45pm Babylon 5** Londo ends the Centaurs' alliance with Shadows and Sheridan finds himself trapped in a battle (7) (846992)
- 11.40pm Space Cadets** (7) (763911)
- 12.15pm Crapton Villians** Squatters have moved into the basement of Crapton Villians (7) (4748138)
- 12.30pm The Avengers: How to Succeed... at Murder** Emma poses as a secretary to discover why a group of executives have been murdered (7) (47549)
- 1.30pm The Avengers: Honey for a Prince** Steed stumbles across a trap involving a prince (7) (40634)
- 2.30pm The Man in the Mask (1940) with Joan Bennett, Francis Lederer and Lloyd Nolan. Propaganda melodrama about the Nazi regime in Germany. Directed by Irving Pichel (757321)**
- 3.50pm Nightwitcher** (7) (575461) 4.50pm *Out of Order* (7) (12414022) 5.05pm *J-Accuse* (7) (338715) 5.30pm *Film and Video Showcase* (81913)
- 5.30pm 100 Per Cent** (7) (5691225)
- 7.00pm Live Champions' League Football** Coverage of the second leg of the preliminary round between Croatia Zagreb and Newcastle United. Newcastle lead 2-1 from the first leg, thanks to two rare John Barnes goals, and will hope to cling to that narrow lead and make it into the powerful (and lucrative) Champions' League. Commentary from Jonathan Pearce (7827485)
- 9.30pm Fame and Fortune** A profile of outrageous rock star Ozzy Osbourne. The Jordan lead singer of Black Sabbath reveals the truth behind his hell-raising ways of the 1970s (5030350)
- 10.30pm The Best of Jack Docherty** Includes interviews with Julie Walters, Corbin Bernsen and Jackie Collins (5803932)
- 11.10pm Prisoner: Cell Block H** Kay's gambling gets the better of her (2721414)
- 12.10am Live and Dangerous** Tommy Boyd and Todd MacInn present live baseball coverage from the American league (72079428)
- 4.35pm The Streets of San Francisco** A handsome bank robber uses his charm to get vital information. With Karl Malden (7) (333752)
- 5.30pm 100 Per Cent** (7) (5691225)



Manager Kenny Dalglish (7.00pm)

- For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**
- SKY 1**
- 6.00am *Morning Glory* (11843) 8.00am *Regis and Kelly* (16218) 10.00am *Days of Our Lives* (17640) 12.00pm *The Oprah Winfrey Show* (60569) 1.00pm *Jeopardy!* (70718) 3.00pm *Jeopardy!* (70718) 4.00pm *The Oprah Winfrey Show* (60569) 5.00pm *The Tonight Show* (32021) 6.00pm *Real TV* (8211) 6.30pm *Mardi Gras* with Chris Rock (8873) 7.00pm *The Simpsons* (3030) 7.30pm *MTV* (1946) 8.00pm *Southwest* (7770) 8.30pm *Real TV* (8211) 9.00pm *Real TV* (8211) 9.30pm *Real TV* (8211) 10.00pm *Real TV* (8211) 10.30pm *Real TV* (8211) 11.00pm *Real TV* (8211) 11.30pm *Real TV* (8211) 12.00am *Real TV* (8211) 12.30am *Real TV* (8211) 1.00am *Real TV* (8211) 1.30am *Real TV* (8211) 1.50am *Real TV* (8211) 2.00am *Real TV* (8211) 2.30am *Real TV* (8211) 3.00am *Real TV* (8211) 3.30am *Real TV* (8211) 4.00am *Real TV* (8211) 4.30am *Real TV* (8211) 5.00am *Real TV* (8211) 5.30am *Real TV* (8211) 6.00am *Real TV* (8211)

- SKY MOVIES GOLD**
- 6.00pm *Hell in the Heavens* (1989) (5617008) 8.00pm *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 11.00pm *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 12.00pm *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 1.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 2.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 3.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 4.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 5.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 6.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 7.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 8.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 9.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 10.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 11.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 12.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 1.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 2.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 3.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 4.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 5.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 6.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 7.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 8.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 9.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 10.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 11.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 12.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 1.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 2.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 3.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 4.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 5.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 6.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 7.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 8.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 9.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 10.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 11.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 12.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 1.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 2.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 3.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 4.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 5.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 6.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 7.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 8.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 9.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 10.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 11.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 12.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 1.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 2.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 3.00am *Instant Justice* (1987) (2305969) 4.00am



CRICKET 40

Who will win the county championship?

SPORT

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 27 1997

ATHLETICS 41

The running battle against anorexia



Croatia pins high hopes on Zagreb

Newcastle meet challenge of national pride

By DAVID MADDOCK

IT IS with humour that one of Sir John Hall's lectures about "Newcastle — the mini nation state" is normally greeted. Yesterday, however, his familiar theme proved a little more disconcerting.

If the Newcastle United chairman should ever need proof that football can indeed represent the hopes and ambitions of a community, then it is here in Zagreb. None of this Newcastle Brown Ale Philosophy, wrapped up to represent some sort of extended local pride — Croatia Zagreb really are the focus of their country's immediate political and cultural aims.

The importance of the team can be judged by the decision of Franjo Tudjman, the President of the newly-formed state, to drop Dinamo, and all its communist connotations, and prefix Zagreb with the name of the proud, new nation.

So Croatia Zagreb entertain Newcastle this evening looking to put another marker for the country on to the European map by qualifying for the group stage of the European Cup and tapping all the resultant wealth and acknowledgement that it can generate.

Croatia reached the quarter-finals of the European championship in England last summer to send the people back home into an orbit of unreserved pride, but this is a domestic team that has been recognised in European club competition and success has become something of a requirement for the one million inhabitants of the city.

Victory in the previous round over Partizan Belgrade was monumental enough, given the obvious tensions between Serbs and Croats at present, yet victory over Newcastle would be an even greater achievement, merely for the way in which it would

announce to a wider public the arrival of Croatia.

So to hear Sir John counter Croatian passion with talk of his side "playing for the Georgie nation" appeared slightly distasteful. The chairman did, however, have the grace to concede that the two "nations" he talked about are very different.

"It will be exciting out here, because they really are playing for their nation," he said. "There's a lot of talk about pride and passion out here, and you have got to understand where they are coming from at the moment."

Through football, they are trying to project their nation.



Dalglish: tough task

Soccer is very important to them. It helps them to identify with their homeland. It is the same with us — football has been very important in helping the North East come out of the recession."

As the people of Zagreb will no doubt discover today, it is hard to correlate political freedom with a five-bellied, shaven headed supporter in the black and white uniform of the Newcastle fan. However, Sir John has a point. Politicians throughout Europe have finally grasped the importance of

football to their people and have begun to attempt to harness the publicity it can generate.

Not for Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, such expansive thoughts, though. He recognises the difficulty of travelling to such an intense city, but his fears are based soundly within footballing foundations.

"This Zagreb team is a better one than the Monaco side which knocked us out of the Uefa Cup last season," he said. "They have more quality. They have very dangerous players and we know how good they are."

The quality Dalglish speaks of is most obvious to British observers in the form of Robert Prosinecki, 20, formerly of among others, Barcelona and Real Madrid, before his significant return to Zagreb. The fact that he was brought home from Spain is seen as a huge political gesture out here because the midfielder player was once admired as among the greatest talents in Europe.

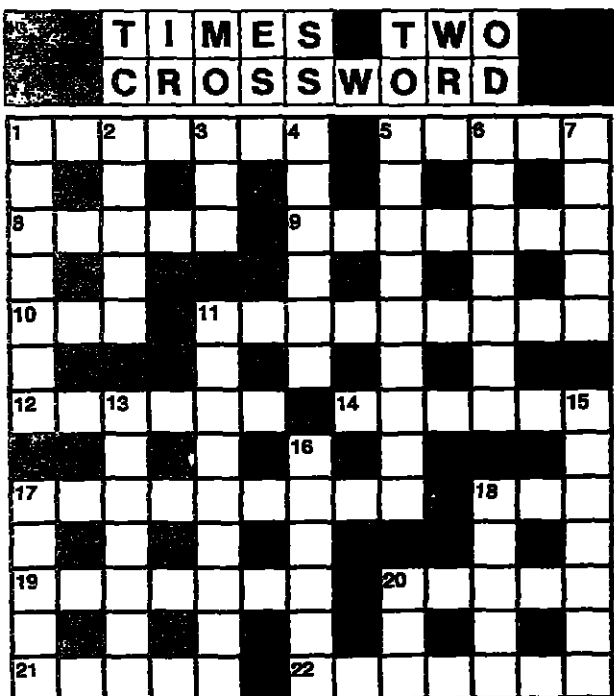
Serious injury has diluted Prosinecki's imposing physical presence, but he still possesses an enviable technique. He also has admirable support from younger players who are likely to follow the same route as him to the very best leagues in Europe. Silvio Maric, 22, whose talent was obvious on the right of midfield in the first leg, won 2-1 by Newcastle, has been promised to Juventus and the defender, Dario Simic, 21, has an agreement with Milan.

Given that Zagreb have the weight of a nation both before and behind them, it looks an impossibly imposing task for Newcastle tonight in the passionate atmosphere of the Maksimir Stadium. But Dalglish refuses to be worried by the passion his side will encounter. "It might well be intimidating, but not as intimidating as the press room after a match," he smiled.

Rampant Rovers, page 38
Barnsley unbowed, page 38
Simon Barnes, page 42



Mary Pierce in blistering form at Flushing Meadows yesterday, where she crushed Gigi Fernandez 6-1, 6-2 in the US Open. Report, page 42



- ACROSS**
- 1 Tomahawk (7)
 - 5 Currency, mixed (5)
 - 9 First appearance (5)
 - 10 Ballet solo (3,4)
 - 11 Creeper — Compton Burnett (3)
 - 12 Secretly unglue (envelope) (5,4)
 - 13 NZ port; logarithm inventor (6)
 - 14 Hardened, accustomed (6)
 - 15 Tireless application (9)
 - 16 Pin, croquet post (3)
 - 17 Windmill expression (7)
 - 18 Lover of Daphnis (5)
 - 21 Fish; extract metal (5)
 - 22 Declare (faith); claim (skill) (7)
- DOWN**
- 1 Wall-building Emperor (7)
 - 2 Paddy (5)
 - 3 Success damage (3)
 - 4 Fur cape, stole (6)
 - 5 Bribe for silence (4,5)
 - 6 Cleaner; footballer — Orford (7,6)
 - 7 — Terry, actress — Orford (7,6)
 - 8 Resolute (9)
 - 11 Hobby (7)
 - 12 Wander off point (7)
 - 13 Multi-car accident (4-2); amass (4,2)
 - 14 Se. district — Wilson, author (5)
 - 15 One taken at wrist by doctor (5)
 - 20 Call like dove (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1182

ACROSS: 1 Ripe 3 Crackpot 8 Swah 9 Virtuoso 11 Resilience 14 In fits 15 Parade 17 New Orleans 20 Idolatry 21 Join 22 Langleigh 23 Bald

DOWN: 1 Restrain 2 Play safe 4 Raider 5 Cat's cradle 6 Poup 7 Tool 10 Glycerin 12 Paranoia 13 Seasoned 16 Corn 18 Lift 19 Boun

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1178

ACROSS: 2 Harassed 6 Circle 8 Arthur 9 Abandon 10 Ample 12 Unsolvable 16 Motion clip 18 Loden 20 Malaise 21 Venial 22 Cutter 23 Numeracy

DOWN: 1 Big hand 2 Hedonist 3 Aerial 4 Sloop 5 Direct 7 Consonant 11 Merchant 15 Buoyancy 14 Cluster 15 Cloven 17 Unfair 19 Denim

14 PRIZE of a return ticket (travelling economy class to anywhere in BRITAIN) and a domestic or international network is N. 10 minutes of Gaudin, Surrey.

2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLANDS domestic network is T. Griffith, Bristol.

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Serene Rangers face tough task

By KEVIN MCCARRA

THERE can be a certain placidity about the powerless. Rangers, ceased to be masters of their own fate when they lost the first leg of their European Cup preliminary round tie 3-0 to IFK Gothenburg. If there is to be a recovery at Ibrox this evening, the Scottish champions will require the collaboration of a self-destructive performance by the visitors.

Accordingly, there was a calmness yesterday about Rangers, who must already have begun to make the mental adjustment that will prepare them for demolition to the Uefa Cup, the penalty for the failure against Gothenburg. The Ibrox side are not in a state of despair and there is encouragement in knowing that Brian Laudrup, who has been ill with chicken-pox for three weeks, will take up some sort of role this evening.

"He is important and it is a big lift to everyone to have him available," Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, said. "Laudrup has not played for a while and it's a dilemma whether he should be named in the team or brought on as a substitute."

Although Laudrup was missing from the first leg, it was not a diminution in creativity that wreaked havoc on Rangers. In that match, Smith's team still looked more gifted than their opponents, but were unable to cope with the drab duties that are required in any match. "The goals we lost there came from a breakdown in teamwork," the manager said, recalling hapless errors in defence.

"The biggest thing for us now will be how the side as a

whole performs, not just the talented individuals. I've never been one to ask the crowd to get behind us. If we cause Gothenburg to become nervous, then the fans can help us by creating a bit of an intimidating atmosphere."

Smith is circumspect because he cannot ignore the difficulties that Rangers face. It may not be impossible for his club to overcome the Swedish champions, but it is implausible. Gothenburg generally produce a goal in away legs and should they do so again tonight, Rangers will need to score five times.

Indeed, Smith, in his six years as manager, has only once seen his side beat European opponents by three goals or more at Ibrox. That happened only last month, but the losers, by a 6-0 margin, were Getafe of the Faeroe Islands. At the weekend, Rangers did beat Dundee United 5-1, but Gothenburg are not expected to be so vulnerable.

Despite the fact that Par Karlsson, who hit the second goal in Gothenburg a fortnight ago, is injured, Mats Jorgensen, the coach of the Swedish club, will be confident, knowing that men such as Stefan Pettersson and Teddy Lucic should have the experience to pilot the side through the tie.

Even supporters of Gothenburg recognise that the team has declined since its victories over Manchester United and Barcelona three years ago. Nowadays, in essence, they are just a disciplined band of workaday professionals. Sadly for Rangers, they may not need to be anything more.

Toms celebrates special flag day

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

WENDY TOMS has heard most of it before. The sly digs about how she should stay at home doing the cooking, how she should go back behind the perfume counter where she belongs, or how she should stick to washing the dishes. As the only woman match official in the Nationwide League and FA Carling Premiership, it is patronising and predictable.

Toms brushes it aside with ease. In the 13 years that it has taken her to progress from the parks to the Premiership, little has faded her. "Some of the most amusing reactions come from the spectators," she said. "Some of their comments are very positive until a decision goes against their team. I'm then treated like all match officials, but it doesn't really worry me. I don't let it affect me."

This evening, Toms, 34, a duty shift manager, from Poole, Dorset, will make the 35-mile trip along the south coast to officiate, as a referee's assistant, in the game between Southampton and Crystal Palace at The Dell. It will be the first time that a woman has infiltrated the previously male-dominated world of the Premiership. And no, she does not share a dressing-room with her colleagues and no, she does not usually encounter a hostile response from the players.

"When I referee, perhaps the players are initially surprised to find a woman in charge," Toms said, "but with the increase in the number of women taking up the whistle, it's no longer such a novelty. In the main, player reaction is no different to when a male colleague is refing, although

there does appear to be slightly less dissent."

Away from the glare of the football spotlight, Toms, a divorcee, retains a low profile, preferring to indulge in her favourite pastimes of fitness training and gardening. Laurence Jones, a fellow League linesman, from Bournemouth, helps ease her through the public relations minefield.

"Wendy is a very private person, she doesn't really like all this fuss," Jones said. "I



Toms: Premiership debut

think where she does so well is that she has no real emotional attachment. She doesn't support any team and can maintain an almost cold, very focused approach. She just loves refereeing."

Jones has coached her for seven years and now acts as her adviser. He is in his third season on the League line. Toms is in her fourth. "My pupil has overtaken me," he said, "but I don't have a problem with that. In fact, I'm very proud of her."

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